DIDI ON JOE ALLEN + MELLOR ON JON FLANAGAN + ANDY FROM LAWSON ON THE MIGHTY REDS + WHAT'S ON LFC TV

LIVERPOOL FC

OFFICIAL LIVERPOOL FC MONTHLY MAGAZINE

LIVERPOOLFC.COM

Steve Nicol
Catching up with LFC's legendary Mr Versatile

You beauty!
Readers tweet their favourite goals of 2013

Jordan Henderson
Life in the Anfield engine room

Steven Gerrard
Previews England's World Cup prospects

We are the champions
Shankly's title winners of 1963/64 reunited

PLUS

Simon Mignolet on brilliant Belgium
Seba Coates on Luis Suarez and Uruguay
Lucas on his return to Brazil's midfield
Mamadou Sakho on his part in the French renaissance



[exclusive interview]

OUR BOY FROM BRAZIL

Coutinho – from Sugar Loaf to San Siro to Spion Kop and next summer's big party



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LIVERPOOL FC MONTHLY

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TRIBUTE TO MANDELA

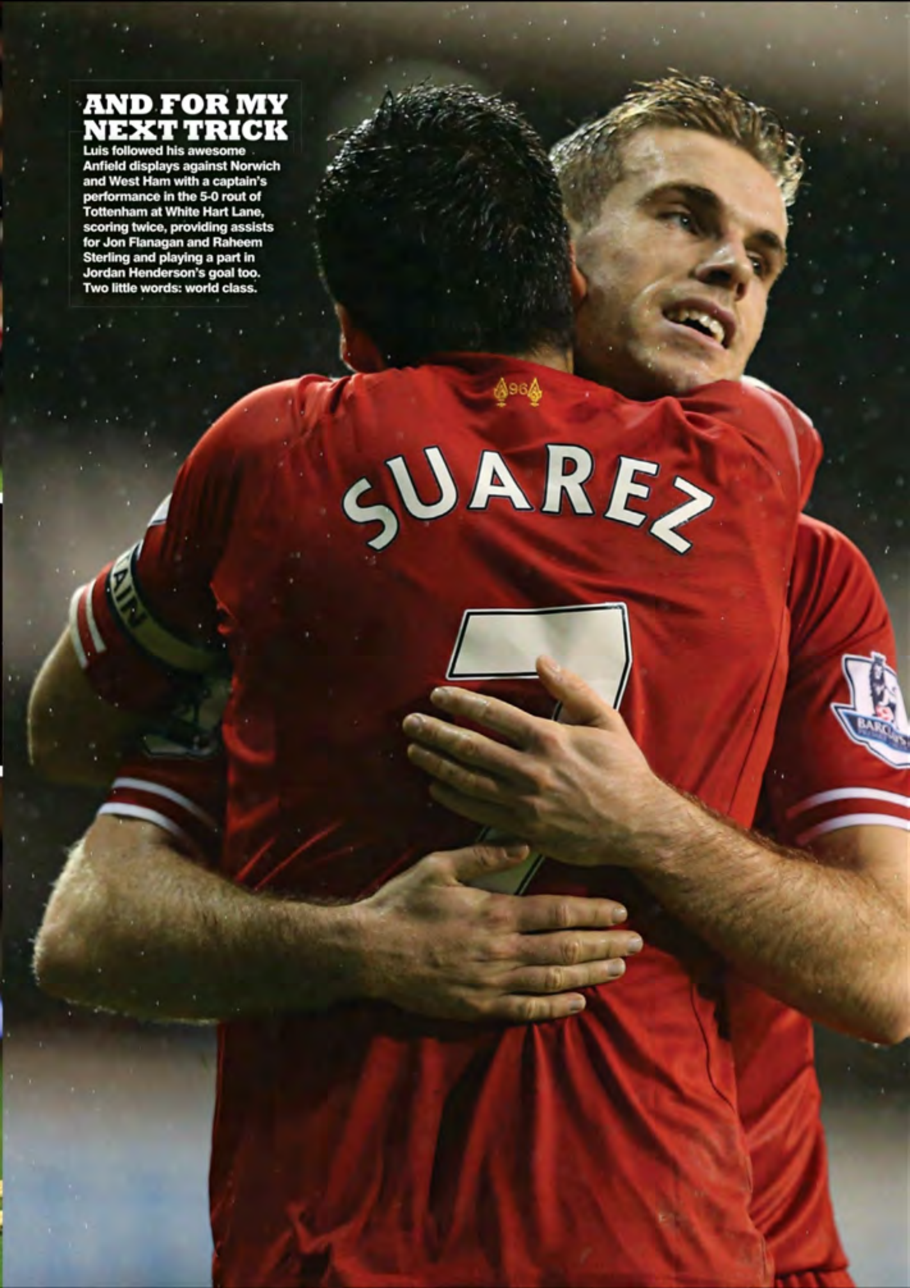
Anfield held a minute's applause for Nelson Mandela before the kick-off against West Ham, as did every other stadium staging a Premier League fixture over the weekend after the great South African statesman passed away at the age of 95.


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WARRIOR
FLANAGAN 38
STERLING 31
ALLEN 24
COUTINHO 10
SAKHO 17
SUAREZ 7
MIGNOLET 22
GERRARD 8
HENDERSON 14
SKRTEL 37
JOHNSON 2



RUDDY AMAZING

The third of the four magnificent goals scored by Luis Suarez against Norwich City at Anfield was another masterclass in world-class technique and opportunism that left Canaries keeper John Ruddy out for the count. What a way to register your third hat-trick against the same opposition.



AND FOR MY NEXT TRICK

Luis followed his awesome Anfield displays against Norwich and West Ham with a captain's performance in the 5-0 rout of Tottenham at White Hart Lane, scoring twice, providing assists for Jon Flanagan and Raheem Sterling and playing a part in Jordan Henderson's goal too. Two little words: world class.


WARRIOR
14
L.F.C.
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MIND & BODY SOUL

Every day Jordan Henderson drives himself to improve physically and mentally as a young professional. The Liverpool and England midfielder explains how and why to William Hughes

There is a steely determination in Jordan Henderson's eyes as he reflects upon a pivotal period in his Liverpool career.

His enthusiasm for football shines through as he engages on the subject and he is unequivocal in his belief that he has plenty of progress still to make. Such hunger is a quality that Brendan Rodgers has identified as a pre-requisite for those wanting to be part of his Anfield era.

This season Henderson has been one of the first names on the manager's teamsheet and, along with Steven Gerrard, was the only outfield player to have started the Reds' first 15 Premier League games of the season. And yet in the early days of Rodgers' reign, the Northern Irishman gave serious thought to allowing the former Sunderland midfielder to develop his career elsewhere. Henderson has committed body and soul to turning that situation around.

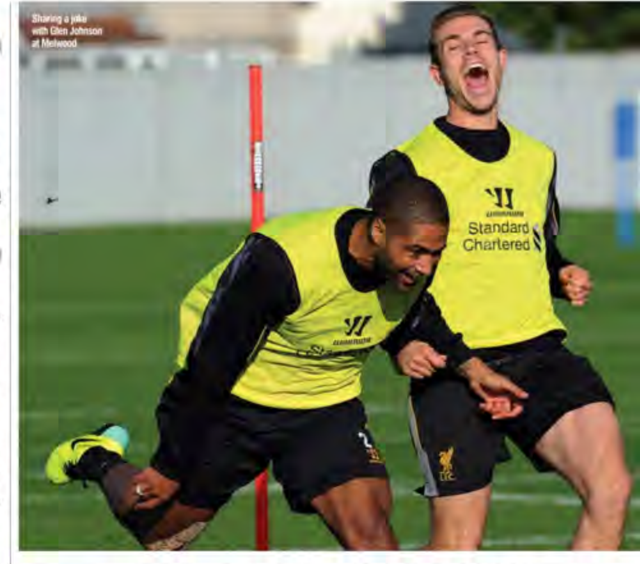
"I think my overall game is improving but I'm still a long way from where I want to get to," he tells us at Melwood. "I want to carry on improving every day. Hopefully I can carry on doing the things I have been doing well and if I keep learning from the right people, then I can get to where I want to be.

"I've played quite a lot so far this season and I've been really enjoying my football. Since the manager's come in, he's helped me a lot. I think there are a lot of areas I've improved in. Perhaps the biggest would be my tactical awareness. I've made massive strides in terms of defensive transition and offensive too."

It is worth remembering that Henderson was still a week shy of his 21st birthday when he arrived at Anfield in the summer of 2011. A keen student of the game, he admits that there have been times when he may have been guilty of over-thinking things. The past year however has signaled a significant line in the sand.

He has become a father for the first

"My overall game is improving but I'm still a long way from where I want to get"



Sharing a joke with Glen Johnson at Melwood

time and believes having a daughter to dote on when he returns from training means he no longer has time to dwell on matters. "Switching off is the difficult part. When I go home I find it pretty hard to do that, especially when things are not going well and you probably end up over-thinking. When results and performances aren't of the standards we expect, there's no one more disappointed than myself and as a team we're all the same. But it's how you react. You've got to have a release and try to relax. My little girl is the best thing in the world and helps with that. She has probably changed my life."

He also talks effusively about the work of Dr Steve Peters, the psychiatrist who has previously been employed by the British Cycling team, Team Sky, as well as UK Athletics and snooker legend Ronnie O'Sullivan.

Peters, who works on a consultancy basis at the club, explains: "I specialise in the human mind and how to operate with it. Here at Liverpool the task is to try and optimise performance by using the mind. It's secondary to the physical attributes but I think most people would agree that what you take on the pitch in your head is quite critical."

Henderson says: "I've been speaking to Steve for exactly a year now and have felt massive benefits from it. I feel really strong mentally. It's 100 per cent helped me but again it's another aspect you've got to keep working on, to improve and get stronger.

"There is huge expectation at Liverpool but that's why I came here in the first place. The best players have great expectations on them because they want to perform at the highest level every single week and they're expected to do so. That's what I want. Obviously you're going to have times when it might not be going for you but you still need to stay mentally strong and persevere."

Henderson's boundless reserves of energy and athleticism have helped make him a key cog in the team Rodgers is attempting to mould.

He feels that such attributes are in the genes – his mum worked as a fitness instructor and his dad played football for England Police.

"I think it's natural. My mam and dad enjoyed sport and when I was in school I loved taking part in games. I used to run everywhere! At the end of each school day I would always run home and I was pretty active. It has given me a good base of fitness, and the staff here also help. We do some good conditioning work on the training field during the week to get us ready for the games and physically I feel very good at the minute."

In the first two-and-a-half years of his Liverpool career Henderson has been deployed in midfield holding roles, wide on the right, as a right wing-back, and across an attacking trident playing off a lone frontman.

There are those who believe that such versatility can be a hindrance rather than a help. Having said that it never did Steve Nicol any harm (see interview on pages 64-68). "I think it can only really benefit me," he says. "If you can play in various positions you've got more chance of being in the team and all I want to do is play.

"At the same time I really enjoy the different roles. If I'm playing in a deeper position in front of the back-four or back-three as more of a controller I like the responsibilities, and it's the same when I'm playing on the left, right or centrally off the attacker with more chances to get forward."

His form in a red shirt has also brought about further opportunities in a white one. After being omitted from the first few England international squads of the season, he was recalled for the November friendlies against Chile and Germany, making substitute appearances in both games to take his tally of caps to seven.

"It was nice to go back into the squad and get some game time. During the two or three international breaks before that I was having a few days off and coming into training but I didn't enjoy watching the games on the telly, be that the Under 21s or the seniors. So to be in the squad was a massive boost. But in terms of the summer there's still a long way to go and anything


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Scoring a beauty at Spurs

"We need to keep playing at the right tempo and intensity and do the right things"

can happen. I've just got to focus on playing really well for Liverpool and I'll give it my everything as I always do. Then, come the end of the season, let's see where we are and it will be up to the manager of England."

Back in February, Jordan became the first recipient of the FA's Under 21s player of the year award. He has since handed the age-group captaincy on to Reds team-mate Andre Wisdom. "If I had had to choose a person to take over, it would have definitely been Andre because he is a leader and a winner. He's got the right mentality and attitude to take on that role so I didn't feel as though I needed to talk to him about it. I've wished him all the best. It's a great achievement for him and I'm sure he's enjoying it."

Another group of Under 21s to have benefited from Henderson's example have been Liverpool Football Club's own group of talented youngsters. Speaking to the magazine recently, coach Alex Inglethorpe explained how impressed the whole squad had been with the no14's attitude and ability while training at Melwood during one of those international breaks earlier in the season.

"When they come up here (Melwood) I don't really think that they're looking at me to be honest," he smiles. "I always feel that we're on a par. I've always been taught from a young age that if you're training or playing with someone, it doesn't matter how good they are, you're on par with them and you should be able to voice your opinion. Obviously you've got to show respect, but you're literally on the same playing field so that's no different when the 21s or the 18s come to Melwood. I try to pass on my experiences from when I was their age and generally try to encourage them. There are a lot of good players with plenty of talent coming through if they continue to work hard."

And while Henderson believes that crop of players can give the club a bright future, fans witnessing the team's displays at Anfield this season believe the present also looks promising.

He says: "It's been a decent start – especially at home where we've been fantastic on occasions. The performance level has been really high and we've scored quite a lot of goals as well. That's been really pleasing for us but we've got to keep it going.

"That's the key thing. We can't just expect to go out and win by four or five every single week. There will be days when we might not score, but in those matches we need to keep playing at the right tempo and intensity and do the right things. We need to take that into our games away from home too. You can't just win your home games and not perform when you're away. That's tough but something we need to strive for if we're going to be successful."

The determination is clear again as he fixes you with a steely gaze and says: "Consistency is so important. If we can keep doing the things we have been, then by the end of the season we can be right up there."






8a
8b
7b
6b
14
L.F.C.
Standard
14b
23a

SUA

THE FIR

When Luis Suarez scored four goals against Norwich last month he became the 35th player to net 50 league goals for the Reds and it took him just 86 appearances…



TEAM

11 - Norwich City
7 – Sunderland
6 – Wigan Athletic
4 - Fulham
3 - QPR, West Brom, Everton
2 - Newcastle, Arsenal, Chelsea
1 - Stoke City, Wolves, Aston Villa, Manchester United, Manchester City, Swansea, Tottenham, Crystal Palace

KEEPER

10 – John Ruddy
6 – Ali Al Habsi
5 – Simon Mignolet
3 – Boaz Myhill, Tim Howard
2 – Tim Krul, Mark Schwarzer, Wojciech Szczesny, Kieren Westwood, Petr Cech, Julio Cesar, Hugo Lloris, Maarten Stekelenburg,
1 – Asmir Begovic, Wayne Hennessey, David De Gea, Shay Given, Joe Hart, Mark Bunn, Michel Vorm, Julian Speroni

WHERE

At Anfield 28
Away from home 23

The stadiums

28 – Anfield
6 – Carrow Road
4 – Stadium of Light
3 – DW Stadium, Goodison Park
2 – Emirates Stadium, Loftus Road
1 – Craven Cottage, Old Trafford, Stamford Bridge

REZ

ST 50 (plus 1)

HOW

Shots 43 Headers 8 Free kicks 4 Left foot 12 Right foot 31

Assists:
8 – Steven Gerrard
6 – Jose Enrique
4 – Dirk Kuyt
3 – Charlie Adam, Raheem Sterling, Jordan Henderson, Daniel Sturridge,
2 Glen Johnson, Philippe Coutinho, defender clearance, defender error
1 – Jonjo Shelvey, Raul Meireles, Daniel Agger, Nuri Sahin, Jamie Carragher, Lucas, Stewart Downing, Kolo Toure, Aly Cissokho

WHEN

Minutes
0-15 mins - 7
16-30 mins - 10
31-45 mins - 7
46-60 mins - 10
61-75 mins - 7
76-90 mins - 10

MONTHS

August 3
September 7
October 6
November 7
December 8*
January 4
February 3
March 6
April 5
May 2

FOUR-MIDABLE!

Luis' scoring spree against the Canaries was the 31st occasion on which a Liverpool player had finished a game with four goals. The Uruguayan made LFC history by becoming the first Red to score three hat-tricks against the same club.

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Sometimes setbacks are there to make the best players stronger

Didi HAMANN





Istanbul: the Dudek redemption

In Germany there is a player called Frank Mill who is famous for missing an open goal while playing for Borussia Dortmund against Bayern Munich. After going around the goalkeeper he had a few seconds to score. But instead of just rolling it he tried to dribble the ball in, got it stuck under his feet and ended up hitting the post.

That didn't mean he was a bad player – his goalscoring record was quite good. It just illustrates that anyone can make a mistake. Joe Allen's miss against Everton was an example of that.

In almost every game, every week, in every league, there will be errors. Some, such as Mill's or Allen's, get highlighted more because they take place in front of goal. If it's at the other end of the pitch the same applies too. Goalkeepers usually have nobody else to bail them out. So when they slip up it normally proves costly.

I played with Jerzy Dudek for five seasons and during most of that he was a fantastic goalkeeper. The only time his level slightly dipped was in 2002/03. In the middle of that spell he dropped the ball against Manchester United and let Diego Forlan score.

"Jerzy stayed tough and worked harder to overcome his difficult spell"

It was obviously a tough time for him. I don't remember anyone saying too much about his mistake in the dressing-room afterwards. If a player has made a costly error they know it – nobody needs to tell them.

Gerard Houllier was diplomatic when it came to those type of situations. He wouldn't say too much straight after a game anyway, win or lose. I think the only time he'd discuss an incident in front of everyone else related to a red card for something stupid. That emphasised it was unacceptable.

For anything else, such as Jerzy's slip-up, he'd chat to the player on a one-to-one basis. I think the lads really appreciated that. Jerzy responded to the situation in the perfect way. The next time we played United was in the Worthingon Cup final at the Millennium Stadium a few months later. Jerzy produced some fine saves to win man of the match and help us to a 2-0 victory. And we all know what he did in the Champions League final in Istanbul a few years later.

Jerzy could have sulked or been down. Instead he showed tremendous mental toughness and worked even harder to overcome his difficult spell and rediscover his best form. That's what you have to do if you endure a bad moment or big disappointment. You have to almost erase any memories of it because there will always be another game to play in.

From what I've seen, Joe Allen's already done that. He was excellent in our win over West Ham in early December and I think he has a big future at Liverpool. Sometimes it's not a mistake that defines someone's career but how they respond to it.

Follow Didi on Twitter @dietmarhamann



"I'M GOING TO SCORE TOMORROW NIGHT – YOU'LL SEE"

That's what Mamadou Sakho told a team-mate the evening before France's play-off with Ukraine, as James Eastham reports

The day Mamadou Sakho's life changed forever was 19 November 2013. Before then he could walk down any street in his homeland and only real football fans would recognise him. If he were to do the same now, people would pour on to the pavements to shake his hand.

Tuesday 19 November was the day of France's World Cup play-off second leg against Ukraine. Two down from the first leg four days earlier, les Bleus' chances of making it to Brazil seemed to rank somewhere between slim and non-existent. The media had given up on the players, accusing them of lacking character. The national mood was dark as the squad jetted back to France for the return fixture, yet one man was preparing to take centre stage. Sakho had watched the first leg from the sidelines: Laurent Koscielny and Eric Abidal had been picked ahead of him in defence. But Koscielny was now suspended after a late red card in that first game. This was Sakho's moment and somewhere inside he felt France could still make it.



"I didn't sleep the night after the 2-0 defeat," recalls the summer signing from PSG. "I was in the room with Paul [Pogba] and Blaise [Matuidi]. I told them if I was asked to play in the second match I'd be ready. I couldn't believe how we'd lost, playing as though it was a friendly. When the coach told me I was in the team I said to myself: we're going to Brazil. I didn't care how we got there – I just knew we were going through."

Two days before the game Sakho was put up before the press. By then he knew he was set to start but he kept the news to himself. He dutifully answered the questions, but his face said more than his words about his unshakeable belief. Media conference over, he got back to the business of

planning for the biggest football game of his life. As he walked out on to the Stade de France pitch that night, even Sakho would have struggled to believe what a seminal performance he was about to produce. In front of 80,000 fans France dominated from the start. They went 1-0 up on 22 minutes – and rather than Franck Ribery or one of the other more established first-teamers it was Mamadou that scored, with a low angled drive. The comeback had begun.

Shortly before half-time Karim Benzema made it 2-0. Early in the second-half Ukraine had a man sent off. It seemed only a matter of time before France would score the winner.

"The coach told me I ws playing and I thought: we're going to Brazil"

They did – and it was Sakho that struck again, turning the ball home from close range with the inside of his right knee. He and the rest of the team defended magnificently to hold on for one of France's greatest sporting comebacks.

At the final whistle the stadium erupted. Sakho danced on the pitch with former PSG team-mate Blaise Matuidi. French regional newspaper *Midi Libre* splashed a picture of the pair of them across its front page the following morning underneath the headline 'Samba!' All over France the media singled out Sakho for praise. National sports daily *L'Equipe* awarded him 9 out of 10 and compared him to one of France's greatest-ever players. "It was as though we'd gone back in time and were watching Lilian Thuram all over again," marvelled reporter Raphael Raymond.

He was referring to the fact Thuram had scored twice in France's 2-1 World Cup semi-final win over Croatia in 1998. Now in the same stadium Sakho had done the same thing. As the reality of what he'd achieved sunk in, Mamadou said he'd had a feeling he was going to be the match-winner.

"At dinner the night before the game I elbowed Moussa Sissoko and said: 'I'm going to score tomorrow night – you'll see'. He fell about laughing. 'You? You never score!' he said. I smiled and said: 'Just you watch'.



Sakho, out of shot, fires home the first

Okay, I never thought I'd score two – but just before kick-off Moussa grabbed my arm and said: 'Remember what you told me last night?' I told him I did. After the game he came over and said: 'Are you a clairvoyant or what?!'"

In the 48 hours that followed, his name and face were everywhere, even though by now he'd returned to Liverpool for training. The coverage continued into the next week. Sakho was star guest on sports channel BeINSport's Sunday-night football show. The public got to see the man behind the footballer.

BeINSport had tracked down a youth coach who'd worked with Sakho at Paris FC, the club that Mamadou had joined at the age of eight. The coach described the boy he'd known: "He was attentive, shy, and always happy to put the cones out or pump up the footballs. He was my little assistant. As he got older he grew in confidence. He became a leader. He'd look after the younger boys. We weren't his team – we were his family."

Looking back at his childhood, Sakho broke down as he recalled the death of his father at 13. "One day he called me into his room and said: 'My time's up now. I've left your mother some money for an apartment. I leave responsibility for the family with you'. From that moment on, football wasn't just an aim – it was an obligation. I was determined to make it. At 12, 13, I was still hanging around with my friends – but looking further ahead than them."

Sakho's vision guided him all the way the night against Ukraine that will never be forgotten. In the months leading up to the World Cup he will continue to be feted as a national hero. He played a massive role in France making it to Brazil. And he's only 23. You feel that, for this Reds defender in the blue of his country, the best is yet to come.

ALY ON THE FRENCH RENAISSANCE

"To be perfectly honest I didn't think they could turn it around [in that second leg]," says Reds on-loan defender Aly Cissokho. "The game in Ukraine was very tough, so to have to play them again just four days later was a real challenge. Every newspaper in France was negative about our chances. The players could easily have let their heads go down.

"Mamadou doesn't normally score goals – beforehand he wasn't even sure if he would play. But the coach gave him the chance and he took it. Afterwards he was delighted, he felt he could do anything – even become president of France! It was a really good moment for him and I was pleased to see it happen. The team reacted well to a difficult situation and showed how good they can be.

"Of course getting in the squad is a target for me. [To play in] a World Cup is an ambition for every player. There are two very good left-backs ahead of me – Patrice Evra and Gael Clichy. They've done well in the Premier League for a long time now. If I am to get ahead of them I have to play here every week and play well."



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"This is such a crucial period to be called up for Brazil"

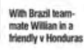
Lucas explains why so many people in his homeland will be watching the Premier League closely over the winter

Our boy is back row fourth from left

After a hiatus from the national team of almost two years, Reds midfielder Lucas could have been forgiven for thinking his dream of appearing at the World Cup finals back home was slipping away. However, his ambition seems to be back within his grasp after he was recalled to the squad in October.

Brazil of course qualify automatically for the tournament as hosts, and with a population of more than 200 million behind them the Samba stars hope to do their people proud. The five-times winners are synonymous with a competition that has turned players like Pele, Zico, Romario, Ronaldo and now Neymar into household names across the globe.

Lucas was sidelined by an ACL injury for the second half of the 2011/12 season and then missed a chunk of last term with a thigh problem. During that period his former Gremio manager Meno Menezes was replaced as Brazil coach by Luiz Felipe Scolari and he appeared to be in the international football wilderness.



With Brazil team-mate Willian in a friendly v Honduras

But he was called up for the friendly against South Korea in Seoul in mid-October and has featured in four games since his recall. "Being part of the World Cup in Brazil is something that I have always wanted," he says. "Of course the [injury] problems that I've had in the past have just made it harder for me.

"I am really glad that I'm back in the squad because that means I am playing well and the way that the manager of the national team wants me to. Now we have a few months without any international games so it will be important to keep playing well for Liverpool – and then we'll see in the new year if I am still in the plans.

"I think that if I make the next squad my chances of being involved in the World Cup will be very high, so I am really looking forward to this period. Over late December/early January the Premier League will be the only one of



the major leagues that will be on, so the attention will be on England and it will be important to be featuring in most of the games."

Lucas says the role he's asked to play for his national side is not too unlike his job under Brendan Rodgers. "It's quite similar really. I play as a holding midfielder and try to start the build-up while sometimes giving the defence an extra man. There are a few aspects that are different to that which Brendan asks me to do.

"It's just a case of adapting. I have felt really comfortable in the games I've played with Brazil. I think the way I play here at Liverpool is what took me back to the squad so I just have to keep trying to perform the same way."

Another man hoping to come into Scolari's thinking is Anfield teammate Philippe Coutinho. The 21-year-old midfielder has enjoyed an excellent first year with Liverpool and though he's played down his own chances of making the squad, Lucas believes that he is in contention.

"Scolari is trying to watch everyone. He's got maybe 40 to 45 players that he is really thinking about taking to the World Cup so I think it will be a case of who is in the best shape at the moment. That's why this period is crucial. As I say there won't be too much football on outside England and I'm sure the coach will be watching the games.

"Philippe was very unfortunate to get the shoulder injury when he did as I thought he had a chance to be picked. But you only need to look at my case where I thought I was not going to have another chance because of injury and because of the players that were playing in that moment. But then, when I didn't expect a call-up, it came because I was doing well for the club.

"That's what Philippe needs to keep doing because, for sure, people in Brazil will be watching him. If they think he deserves a chance and might be needed in the squad, I'm sure they will give him that opportunity.

"The way I play at Liverpool is what got me back into the Brazil squad"

"He's still very young and he's got many World Cups ahead of him if he doesn't make the Brazilian squad now. But until the squad for the finals is announced in May I don't think that anybody should give up. My message would be: just keep going because you never know what may be waiting for you."



"WE WON'T GET CARRIED AWAY"

With a squad bristling with famous names Belgium are one of the World Cup's hot tickets according to many pundits – but Simon Mignolet insists he and his team-mates are staying grounded


Simão lining up with Belgium's all-star cast



At the time of writing Belgium are fifth favourites for the World Cup. Despite the obvious talent at their disposal, the sudden level of expectation surrounding Marc Wilmots' team is still perhaps surprising – this is the first occasion they've reached a major tournament since 2002.

With that in mind Simon Mignolet's response to securing a place in Brazil next summer is perfectly understandable. "First of all we were happy to just ensure qualification," says the Reds goalkeeper who is competing with Chelsea's Thibaut Courtois [currently on loan at Atletico Madrid] for a starting place in the national team.

"It was a good feeling. That was our objective and to do it without having to go in to the play-offs was great too. It's a big achievement because we'd all waited so long for it to happen. The whole country was delighted and really enjoyed the moment."

Of the home and away fixtures that they played against Croatia, Serbia, Scotland, Wales and Macedonia, the Red Devils won eight and drew two to comfortably top Group A with 26 points – nine clear of second-placed Croatia (who snuck into the finals as the eighth and last runners-up with the best record). Along the way Belgium scored 18 goals and conceded just four.

"Going through unbeaten is very positive for us," continues Simon. "That means we're one of the top seeds now. Theoretically we should avoid the big teams, although having said that we could end up playing Italy or the Netherlands as they are not top seeds."

A clash with England could also materialise should both sides progress to the last 16, with Belgium in Group F and Roy Hodgson's men in Group D. It's already been mentioned in the changing-rooms at Melwood. "I've spoken to the English lads about the tournament. It's good to see them make it because you want England in the big competitions. It's one of those countries that are a part of the World Cup history and can do well."

Turning his attention back to his own country's aspirations, Mignolet acknowledges they do have some talented individuals. "We have good players," he says of a squad that contains familiar Premier League faces such as Eden Hazard, Vincent Kompany, Marouane Fellaini and Romelu Lukaku. "But we won't get carried away. We know there is a lot for us to do and areas to improve before the summer comes around. The momentum of the tournament builds up slowly from the first game. Our focus is being ready for that. We're all looking forward to it."

"Qualifying is a big achievement – we've waited so long for it to happen"


WORLD CUP Reds

"Players now are stronger, fitter and faster"

The Reds skipper explains why the standard at international level just gets higher and higher

"As a kid you dream about one day going to a World Cup," says Steven Gerrard. "To qualify for one in Brazil is extra-special. Everyone knows the history of that country and the part they've played in the world game. Outside of England it would probably be the next best venue for me."

It was the Liverpool skipper who netted the last goal of England's successful qualifying campaign, a well-taken effort two minutes from the end of a 2-0 home win over Poland at Wembley.

That victory was the second in four days during October for Roy Hodgson's team – a sequence that saw them finish a point ahead of Ukraine to top their group. A month later though they suffered consecutive home defeats to Chile and Germany – results that ensure nobody associated with the Three Lions is getting too carried away

"We did well to qualify," continues Steven. "But I think those games in November were an eye-opener and a lesson. In a way they probably came at the right time because it shows we have a lot to do if we're to enjoy a successful tournament in the summer."

Gerrard currently stands on 108 caps for his country, the same as Bobby Moore, with only Peter Shilton (125 appearances), David Beckham (115) and Bobby Moore (108) ahead of him. His first full game was a friendly against Ukraine at Wembley on 31 May 2000, the day after his 20th birthday. He skippered the side for the first time in March 2004 and has now worn the armband 34 times. Brazil 2014 will be Steven's third World Cup – injury ruled him out of Japan and Korea 2002 – and he believes the standard of football at that level has only risen.

"When I started with England there were good teams about, but when you came up against the lesser nations it was usually quite comfortable. I don't think you have many comfortable games now. Your so-called weaker teams are all improving. The coaching in a lot of countries is getting better too.

"Of course the good sides have also improved. Players are stronger, fitter and faster. Trying to win a major tournament is becoming more difficult."

Hopefully joining him in the squad for next summer will be fellow Reds stars Daniel Sturridge, Glen Johnson, Jordan Henderson, Raheem Sterling and Martin Kelly.



"WE BATTLE HARD AND WE NEVER GIVE UP"

Luis Suarez and Uruguay just don't do lost causes, says club and country team-mate Sebastian Coates after the side rescued their qualification dream







Suarez scores in an August 2013 friendly with Japan

No one has scored more goals for Uruguay than Luis Suarez. He's found the net 39 times in 71 games for his country, including 11 in the CONMEBOL qualifiers that saw the reigning South American champions reach the finals after an intercontinental play-off win over Jordan. That's one more goal than Lionel Messi managed for Argentina in the qualifiers and two more than both Gonzalo Higuain (also Argentina) and Radamel Falcao (Colombia).

Surprisingly none of those 11 goals came in the 5-0 two-legged triumph over Jordan, required after Uruguay had finished fifth behind Argentina, Colombia, Chile and Ecuador. At the last World Cup they came fourth. Are they now a better team?

"It's hard to say," is Sebastian Coates' considered response. "You are talking about two separate periods in time. All we can do is hope that Uruguay does as well as possible and we progress as far as we can. The third-place play-off wouldn't be bad, just like in South Africa."

What the centre-back does guarantee is that Suarez and the rest of his team-mates will continue to produce their brand of determined and skilful football. "Uruguay's style is to always battle hard in every game and never give up on any tackle as a lost cause. We are a solid and compact unit and everyone works hard for the side. There are a lot of very good players in the squad – of course [Edinson] Cavani and Luis come to mind, but as well as them you have a group full of excellent players."

Seba has been unavailable since injuring his knee while on international duty back in August. He admits that watching games rather than playing isn't easy – "especially when you've been there at the beginning and through the qualifying stages, and then you miss the best part [the qualifying]. What I'm working hard to achieve right now is to get back playing as early as possible, to be able to make myself available for selection to the coach, so that he can decide whether or not I'll make the Uruguay squad. It's down to me to prepare myself the best I can to be ready and available for whenever he decides."

In the meantime Coates is well aware of what this summer means to the Uruguayan people. "I think for any country, playing at a World Cup finals is the best and most important thing you can get. For us, historically, playing in Brazil is important as it's the place where we last won the trophy [beating the hosts 2-1 in 1950]. So playing another World Cup tournament in that country is fantastic, a really big deal for us."



And celebrates another goal in the same game

There were mixed fortunes for the rest of the Reds in the World Cup qualifiers

The brave and the bold

While the Ivory Coast were topping Group C of the African qualifying section to secure a place in the play-offs, Kolo Toure wasn't part of the squad – through his own choice. He wasn't playing regularly for Manchester City and admitted: "When you don't play for your club it's very difficult to play for your national team."

Following his switch to Anfield and some impressive displays in the red of Liverpool, he returned for the two-legged showdown with Senegal. He was an unused sub for the first meeting – a 3-1 victory for the Ivorians. The return fixture was a tighter contest, Toure featuring for 90 minutes in a 1-1 draw. Brazil will be his third consecutive World Cup finals.

On-loan attacker Victor Moses is a regular starter for African champions Nigeria. The team's preferred penalty-taker, scoring from the spot in the 4-1 play-off win over Ethiopia, is also his nation's 2013 player of the year.

Elsewhere Daniel Agger's Denmark came agonisingly close. A 6-0 victory over Malta in their final game – with Daniel scoring two penalties – ensured second spot in Group B. But their record as one of nine runners-up wasn't enough to earn a play-off place. Martin Skrtel's Slovakia accumulated 13 points in Group G as they finished third behind Greece and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Joe Allen's Wales came fifth in a group led by Belgium.

Luck of the draw

Who's playing who at next summer's big world party

Steven Gerrard and Glen Johnson are likely to face Liverpool team-mate Luis Suarez at the 2014 World Cup finals in Brazil after England and Uruguay were paired together in Group D. The draw also lined the two sides up against Italy and Costa Rica at next year's tournament.

Roy Hodgson's team will open their campaign with a clash against four-time World Cup winners Italy in Manaus on 15 June before travelling to Sao Paolo on 19 June for the tie with Uruguay. Five days later they will play Costa Rica in Belo Horizonte.

Brazilians Lucas and Philippe Coutinho saw their country drawn alongside Mexico, Cameroon and Croatia in Group A, while Simon Mignolet's Belgium were placed in Group H with Algeria, South Korea and Russia.

Kolo Toure's Ivory Coast will compete in Group C along with Colombia, Japan and Greece. Mamadou Sakho, scorer of those play-off goals for France against Ukraine, will face Switzerland, Ecuador and Honduras in Group E.

Liverpool loanee Victor Moses will feature in Group F with Nigeria in games against Argentina, Iran and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Brad Jones and Australia face the daunting prospect of Pepe Reina's Spain, Chile and Netherlands in Group B.



Simon (above) and Glen (below) could meet in the quarters



Group A
Brazil
Croatia
Mexico
Cameroon

Group B
Spain
Netherlands
Chile
Australia

Group C
Colombia
Greece
Ivory Coast
Japan



Group D
Uruguay
Costa Rica
England
Italy

Group E
Switzerland
Ecuador
France
Honduras

Group F
Argentina
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Iran
Nigeria

Group G
Germany
Portugal
Ghana
United States

Group H
Belgium
Algeria
Russia
South Korea

100

A Luis Garcia special makes it two v Juve

60



JUVENTUS (H) WON 2-1

Champions League quarter-final first leg 5 April 2005

On a night that bristled with emotion, this first post-Heysel meeting was always going to be significant and thankfully it also proved a fitting tribute to the 39 who lost their lives two decades earlier. Off the pitch the pre-match commemorations were dignified and respectful: 'In Memory and Friendship'. But once the first whistle sounded the action was fast and furious. Liverpool got off to a perfect start when Sami Hyypia volleyed in at the far post after 10 minutes. The blistering pace was maintained and Luis Garcia sent the home fans into raptures when he doubled the advantage with a spectacular volley 15 minutes later. It was only then that the game settled but the Reds remained in control until Scott Carson handed Juve a lifeline when fumbling a Fabio Canavarro header shortly after the hour mark. The Reds hung on to pass what had been the sternest European test yet of Rafa's reign.

PART FIVE: 60 TO 51 By Mark Platt

GREATEST GAMES

59 CHELSEA (H) WON 7-4

First Division 7 September 1946

The inaugural post-war Football League season was a week old when Anfield played host to its most exhilarating match of a famous title-winning campaign. Big-spending Chelsea were the visitors and the pre-match talk had centered on the impending return to Merseyside of former Everton favourite Tommy Lawton. However it was Liverpool's league debutants Bob Paisley and Billy Liddell who stole the plaudits in an 11-goal thriller. Liddell opened the scoring direct from a corner after just two minutes and by half-time the Reds had cruised into a 4-0 lead through Bill Jones (2) and Willie Fagan. Within five minutes of the restart it was six, Jack Balmer scoring and Liddell grabbing his second. When the visitors hit back with four quick-fire goals to reduce the deficit the Kop were stunned. With 18 minutes still remaining anything seemed possible and there was great relief all round when Fagan, with his second of the afternoon, netted Liverpool's seventh to complete the scoring.





AUXERRE (H) WON 3-0

UEFA Cup second round second leg 6 November 1991

Never before had Liverpool recovered from a two-goal first-leg deficit in European competition and few supporters had absolute faith that they were capable of doing so against French side Auxerre. Only 23,094 turned up at Anfield on the night but those who stayed away missed one of the all-time European classics. The atmosphere inside Anfield was remarkable given the low attendance, and the noise generated was more akin to a sell-out. The enthusiasm of the fans who had made the effort was lifted further when Jan Molby scored from the penalty spot after only four minutes. On the half-hour the crowd was whipped into a frenzy when Mike Marsh levelled the aggregate score with a deft close-range header. Seven minutes from the end of normal time, and with extra-time looming, Molby's searching pass found Mark Walters who raced through on goal before completing the comeback with an assured finish in front of an ecstatic Kop.





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Old Trafford in 1971 – it's changed a bit

57 EVERTON (OLD TRAFFORD) WON 2-1

FA Cup semi-final 27 March 1971

Bill Shankly's second great Liverpool side was slowly coming of age and they showed further signs of their maturity by defeating neighbours and reigning champions Everton to clinch a place in the FA Cup final. Merseyside decamped to Old Trafford for the day and although the Blues were without flu-stricken manager Harry Catterick it was they who drew first blood through midfield ace Alan Ball after 10 minutes. In what was a pulsating encounter the Reds continued to press but had to wait until just before the hour mark to draw level. Alun Evans was the scorer, holding his nerve when finding himself with only Everton goalkeeper Andy Rankin to beat in front of the red hordes at the Stretford End. In the 72nd minute came the game's decisive moment. Rankin failed to hold a cross from winger Steve Heighway and the diminutive Brian Hall was on hand to smash home the loose ball and score the winner.



Job done: the players salute the travelling Kop

56 ROMA (A) WON 2-0

UEFA Cup fourth round first leg 15 February 2001

No-one gave Gerard Houllier's resurgent Reds much hope of defeating the Serie A leaders Roma, especially in their own backyard. True, Liverpool had never lost in the eternal city but Roma were regarded as the Continent's form team and revenge for the 1984 European Cup final defeat was very much on their agenda. In a first half of few opportunities Liverpool defended resolutely. A goalless draw would have been a more than creditable result to take back to England but within a minute of the restart Michael Owen stunned the hostile home crowd with the opening goal. Five thousand travelling Liverpudlians celebrated and when Owen later doubled the advantage it sealed one of the most impressive and unexpected results in our rich European history.



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55
STROMSGODSET (H) WON 11-0
European Cup Winners Cup first round first leg 17 September 1974

It rained goals like never before at Anfield on the night Bob Paisley took charge of his first European tie as Liverpool boss. The unknown Norwegian part-timers of Stromsgodset were the visitors and Liverpool commemorated the occasion by running riot. Of all the outfield players only Brian Hall failed to get on the scoresheet in the most one-sided match the Kop has ever witnessed. Stromsgodset were way out of their depth as the Reds chalked up a new club scoring record and Ray Clemence enjoyed the quietest night of his career. The rout began after just two minutes through an Alec Lindsay penalty and finished with three goals in as many minutes in the closing stages. It won't be remembered as the most thrilling of matches but for those present at Anfield that night it's one they'll never forget.



REDS ELEVEN!
– and that makes history



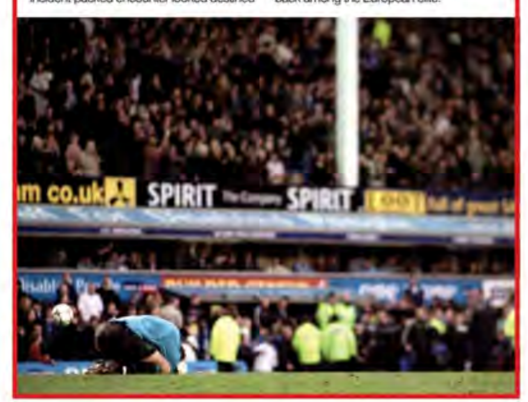
The great Anfield goal rush…

…and the face of the ma
who will never forget it



EVERTON (A) WON 3-2
54
Premier League 16 April 2001

Just seconds remained of the 164th derby on Easter Monday 2001. Liverpool and Everton were tied at two apiece and the Reds' aspirations of securing a place in the following season's Champions League hung in the balance until Gary McAllister wrote himself into local folklore. Three points were a necessity if the pressure was to be maintained on Leeds United and Ipswich Town – our rivals for third place – but an incident-packed encounter looked destined to finish all-square. Then Gregory Vignal was fouled 40 yards from goal. McAllister stepped up to take the resultant set-piece and proceeded to curl the ball around the wall and past a shell-shocked Paul Gerrard in the Everton goal. The coaching staff famously danced for joy on the touchline and there was barely time for the game to restart. Liverpool had snatched a priceless victory and moved a crucial step closer to regaining their place back among the European elite.





53
REAL MADRID (A) WON 1-0
Champions League round of 16 first leg 25 February 2009

Liverpool's first visit to the Bernabeu was one to remember as Rafa Benitez returned to his former club and inspired another famous European away win. After leading the Reds to victory in both the Nou Camp and San Siro he completed an impressive hat-trick to leave his team on the brink of a fourth Champions League quarter-final in five years. Even accounting for the fact that captain Steven Gerrard was deemed fit enough only for a place on the substitutes bench until the closing stages, Liverpool claimed a well-deserved first-leg victory by virtue of an 82nd minute header by Yossi Benayoun.





EVERTON (MAINE ROAD) WON 1-0

Milk Cup final replay 25 March 1984

The first all-Merseyside cup final at Wembley had been an occasion to savour, but when the battle resumed in Manchester three nights later all thoughts of parochial sentiment were cast aside and Liverpool completed the job with typical professionalism. A capacity crowd of 52,000 crammed into Maine Road and they witnessed another tight, keenly-fought encounter. Again there was little to separate the sides and the atmosphere was as tense as it had been beneath the Twin Towers. It required a special moment to decide the destiny of the trophy and it came via the left foot of Graeme Souness after 21 minutes. Receiving a pass from Phil Neal just outside the Everton penalty area, he struck a scorching shot low and hard that crept beyond the grasp of Neville Southall. It was enough to clinch a fourth successive League Cup for Liverpool and the first trophy of Joe Fagan's magnificent treble.





BARCELONA (A) WON 1-0

UEFA Cup semi-final first leg 30 March 1976



MOMENT OF TRIUMPH

... but it's torment for Barcelona



Salute these men who did us all proud

FROM MICHAEL CHARTERS IN BARCELONA

Liverpool became the first English team to win at the Nou Camp and in the process took a major step towards securing their place in a second UEFA Cup final. Against a star-studded Barcelona team John Toshack scored the only goal of the game after 13 minutes and 70,000 Catalans fell silent. The slender 1-0 scoreline, however, did not do justice to the superiority shown by Paisley's Reds, kitted out on this night in Real Madrid-esque all-white. Barca's celebrated Dutch duo Cruyff and Neeskens were reduced to a bit part role and there could have had no complaints had they been beaten four or five-nil. So incensed were the home fans with their sides performance that the white handkerchiefs came out long before the final whistle and a barrage of cushions rained down on the pitch as Liverpool celebrated a famous victory. It had been one of the club's finest European away performances, the significance of which was not fully realised until a fortnight later when a 1-1 draw in the return leg at Anfield confirmed a place in the final.

NEXT MONTH: PART SIX

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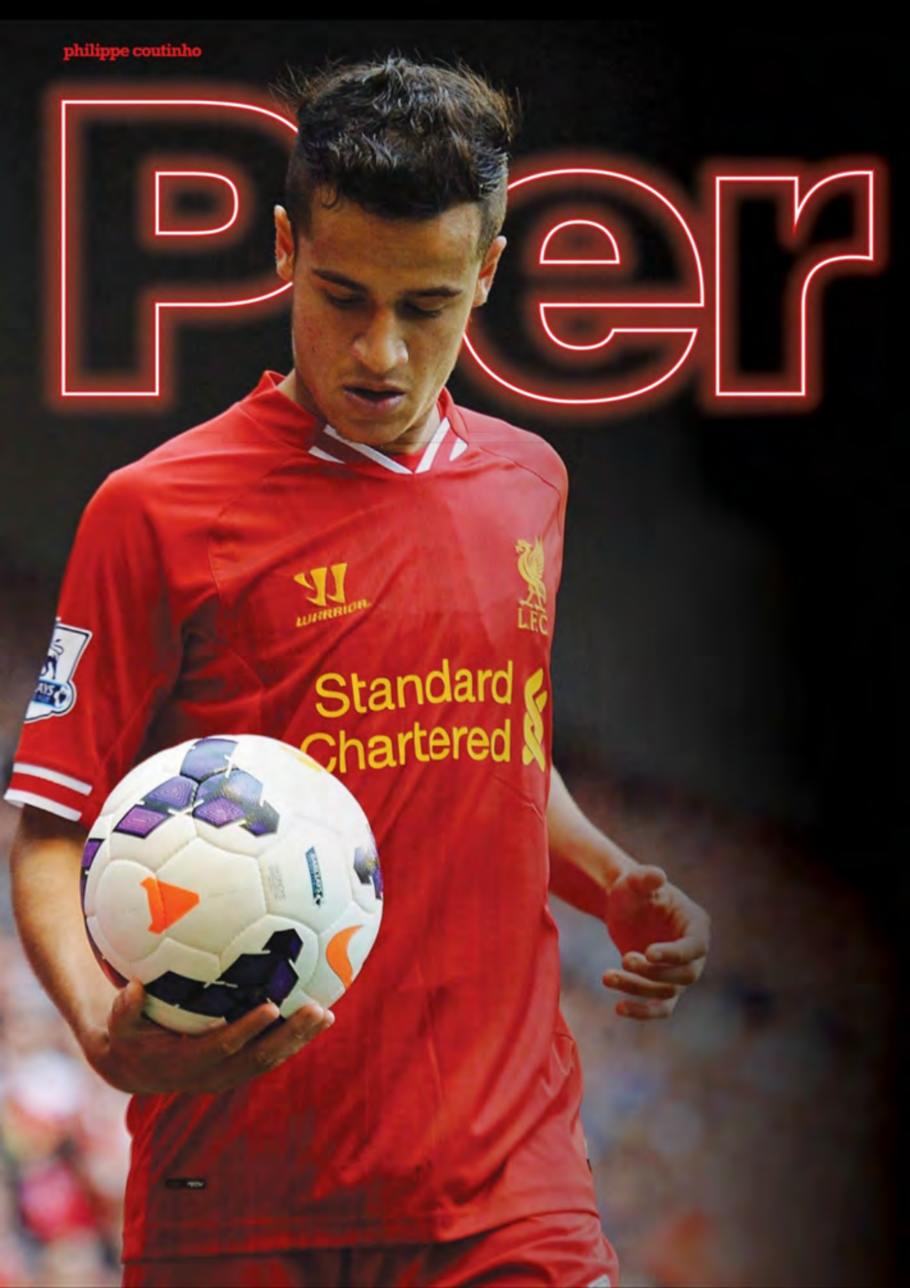


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The brilliant Brazilian with the magical shirt number tells Simon Hughes about the importance of family, learning from Luis and looking forward to the World Cup

Philippe Coutinho has numerous tattoos. All are specific, not just for show. When asked to display them he obliges, lifting up the short-sleeved shirt he is wearing.

One on his bicep merges two of his chief passions: religion and football. The others, dotted about on his arm, hand and fingers, represent his wife and immediate family. There is a mix of full names and initials. 'Never stop dreaming' reads another in English.

He says they are there to remind him of what is important: of the major influences and the people that have helped take him to where he is now. When he's on a high – maybe after an outstanding performance, or when he's on a low – out injured as he was for more than a month at the start of this season – he will look down and survey the ink that charts his life.

"I am a happy person. I never get too down. I never settle either. It is about balance, remembering that life can pose challenges you did not expect – just when you think it is right."

This is the type of statement you hear regularly from many young professional footballers. It's the kind of message instilled from an early age during classes that warn about the perils that lie ahead at their

respective academy. There is a sense, though, that Coutinho really appreciates the meaning. It is not a sentiment from a book. It has been experienced. Coutinho is just 21 years old. He has already played professionally in four countries across two continents. He moved away from home when he was 18 and barely into a professional career. He left Vasco da Gama for Inter Milan after just 20 games. "There's also Rio..." he says, pausing, thinking longingly about his home city, far away from here. "It's a very special place. I am the same person that left there."

Coutinho finishes almost every sentence with a smile that stretches from ear to ear. Speak to Brazilian people and many will tell you that they are laid-back and happy because they are more accepting of the uncertainties that encompass life. Socrates, the elegant and thoughtful Brazilian midfielder from the 1980s, once claimed there is not a blame culture as there is elsewhere. "The reality back home is more volatile than in a developed country, people are also

"As kids we played on hard courts and it was faster, technical"

more accepting of fate knocking on their door unexpectedly," he said.

Coutinho's story, indeed, begins in Rocha in the Zona Norte (North Zone), far away from the steamy beaches of the Copacabana and Ipanema; past the Corcovado Mountain and Christ the Redeemer statue that overlooks and protects the city; then beyond a tangle of motorways that service the tourist industry.

Rocha is a flat residential area of modest brick houses, low-rise featureless apartment blocks and small industrial warehouses. There are more than 100 favelas close by, creeping up hillsides. It is claimed that samba, Brazil's second most famous export behind football, began here. Coutinho's father was an architect. His upbringing was not quite as tough as others. "I was very fortunate, he says. "But I could see it was not the way for everyone."

Subconsciously he was learning about football as a toddler. Rocha is a 10-minute downslope walk from the famous Maracana Stadium. At the time Vasco da Gama and Flamengo regularly played there. He could not see the ground from Rocha but whenever there was a match he could see the crowds making their way: the cavalcade, the chanting, and then the roar whenever a goal was scored.

"The streets were full with people, especially when there was a big game between Vasco, who I supported, and Flamengo. It's like when you see the crowd approach Anfield now – the walk up the hill to the ground, the huge numbers. It made me realise that football does not begin when the game kicks off inside a stadium. It's more than that. It's on the street."

Coutinho began playing football on the street. Unlike in England, there were no signs that read: 'NO BALL GAMES'. "I had to stay close to home but there were not as many cars and more space to play. Everyone who played had desire. We did not always



Opening the scoring in the Goodison derby

have a proper ball, for instance. Sometimes we'd make one out of socks by tying them all together. Maybe we'd just get a cap of a bottle and kick it around. I look back to that time and realise it probably helped my skills."

Coutinho was the youngest of three brothers. The other two were almost 17 years older than him. He remembers watching the pair through a window leave the family home most days to play *futebol de salao* with a group of friends. He remembers wanting to join them. When he was old enough, he did so, but only at their discretion.

"There was a court near home that was used by the community. Everyone played there: young people, old people, men and women. My brothers loved football as much as me. We did not go to play on the beach so much because we had everything we needed close by. There were small-sided games every day. I'd watch my brothers every day. I couldn't wait to be



old enough to run on and start playing. Gradually they would let me, right at the end when a game was already won or lost. I'd run around not really knowing what to do, just following the ball."

Futebol de salao taught valuable lessons. "The ball is a lot heavier, the pitches are smaller and the goals are smaller. Nobody played 11-a-side football at a young age. It was five or six-a-side all the time. It was the best place to learn how to love the ball. On the beach, this was not always possible because the games are so physical. On sand, players are happy to jump into tackles. In the hard courts though the game was faster: more technical. You had to think quickly. There was no opportunity to make long passes."

Coutinho started playing competitively when he joined a local boys team in nearby Mangueira, one of the biggest favelas in Rio. "It was not really competitive," he says. "The coaches just wanted us to enjoy the game then go home. The result did not matter." Within a year Coutinho's father heard about a series of trials being held by Vasco da Gama. Recruitment in Brazil does not start as early as in Europe. It was decided he should go along. For the first time he was playing on bigger pitches.

"When all you know is tight space, more space on a bigger pitch makes the game easier. There was a little bit more time on the bigger pitches. The skills in *futebol de salao* are transferrable. It was valuable to my development.

"The most important [influence] was that of my parents and family. Lots of young players have the ability in Brazil. But without having [good] people around you, going further becomes a lot harder. My parents and my brothers were there every weekend at every game. They helped keep me the same person. They helped make the whole thing happen."

In 2009, Coutinho was Brazil's no10 at the FIFA Under 17s World Cup in Nigeria. Brazil performed poorly, knocked out at the group stage. But he was no10 – a shirt of significance – and not Neymar, who was no11.

"Neymar had been talked about for longer than Coutinho," reasons Jon Cotterill, a British football journalist based in Sao Paulo. "From the moment he started scoring bucket-loads of goals for Santos, the press were onto him. But the allocation of numbers reflects just how highly those inside the Brazilian national team rated Coutinho at the time."

Inter Milan had already signed Coutinho by then. The Italian club had trailed him since he was 13-years-old. Sporting director Marco Branca, formerly a centre-forward for Middlesbrough, crossed the Atlantic several times to see the player after being alerted by a Brazilian scout watching a youth tournament in which he was appearing with Vasco.

Vasco, traditionally the working man's club of Portuguese immigrants in Rio, have always struggled for money. Inter made an offer of nearly £5 million for Coutinho when he was 16 and yet to make his first-team debut. Vasco could not refuse.

"Vasco are a club with traditions. They are the only club in Rio to own their own stadium, for instance. But they are a bit of a yo-yo club and do not possess the structure or organisation of other clubs in the city,"explains Cotterill. "It means they often lose players with potential before they've even made a proper mark."

In the years before Coutinho was allowed to agree a deal with Inter, there were similar agreements between a variety of potential stars and other European clubs. Manchester United signed Internacional's Rodrigo Possebon in 2008 after he was hailed as Brazil's next great attacking midfielder. 'A Ronaldinho in the making', Douglas Costa was linked with United until he eventually moved to Shakhtar Donetsk from Gremio. And in 2008, Kerlon moved from Cruzeiro to Inter having earned notoriety with a display of skill known as the *drible da foquinha* or the 'seal dribble' where he bounced the ball on his head continuously while running.

"There is a common story with the rise and fall of young players in Brazil," Cotterill continues. "A player does well for the national team at either Under 17 or U18 level in televised matches, expectations shift somewhat, an agent or management company moves in, then within six months that player is sold to Europe well before he is ready."

When the Brazilian national team appeared at the 2012 Olympics in London, it included United's Rafael. His presence was significant because



Coutinho and Suarez: different countries, same wavelength

he was the only player from the acclaimed Brazil U17s World Cup squad that was knocked out by Ghana and underachieved in South Korea five years earlier.

"The point is, players can look supremely talented at 17 years of age and fall off the football map. Alternatively they can be awarded with a big contract and aren't able to deal with it. There is a sense that this is currently a problem with players in England but it happens everywhere and more so in Brazil where there are so many to choose from."

Possebon's career path is a cautionary tale. He played three times for United, was loaned to Braga and then returned to Brazil with Santos. After spells at four different football clubs he signed for fourth division Juventude last summer. He is now just 24 years old.

"There are obvious benefits of European football for any Brazilian footballer. There's more money, the level of football is consistently higher in terms of opposition and team-mates, there are bigger crowds at the games, clubs are run more professionally and they take greater care with the welfare of their players.

"But finding the right club in the right country and the right league is not straightforward. Nine times out of 10, clubs are only buying the potential rather than the finished product. There is no guarantee of success. The gamble is big."

Coutinho's contract with Inter stipulated that he remained at Vasco until his 18th birthday. By the time he moved in 2010, the public had only seen fleeting glimpses of his ability. "Clearly there was talent: the basic ingredients in terms of skill. Naturally at that age there was always going to be question marks related to mentality and tactical awareness."

Cotterill believes the difference between a teenager succeeding in Europe or returning home without having made a mark is not related to ability. "Brazilians are very family-orientated. It is no surprise that someone like Oscar at Chelsea, for instance, moved to London with his wife and initially his parents. Oscar is obviously supremely talented and might succeed anyway but having family there every day reminds a player of what he is fighting for.

"Coutinho was the same."

"At Anfield teams try to stop us and it helps to see the little spaces"



In Champions League action for Inter in September 2010

When Coutinho agreed to join Inter, Jose Mourinho was the manager. By the time he'd arrived, Rafa Benitez had replaced him. By the time he'd agreed to join Liverpool, four others had been in charge.

For a teenager in a foreign country such a turnover can be problematic. Every six months or so, Coutinho had to prove himself all over again. He doesn't use this as an excuse to explain why he didn't play so many games in Milan. "This is football," he says, like the majority of players do. There is an acceptance that managerial changes are a part of the game, just like victories and defeats.

Under Benitez, Coutinho believes his tactical awareness improved greatly. "He was very good with me," he remembers. "He was very clear with his instructions. I knew exactly what he wanted from me. In Brazil, all I needed to do was attack. There was not much defending. In Europe, the reality is different. You have to think about all parts of the game. Benitez made me realise this.

"It has made it easier. At Inter, I trained with some of the greatest players – people like [Javier] Zanetti. You see the discipline of the man, training hard every single day to get better even though he has been at the club and in the game for so long. Italy was important for me. I realised a lot of things that are now helping me at Liverpool."

Physically he was prepared for the Premier League. "It's not really the tackles or the power, it's the pace of the game that is the biggest change. In the first months I got tired early. But I am used to thinking quickly, seeing the space and trying to use it to the team's advantage."

It helps that other attacking players have similar qualities. "Luis [Suarez] is unbelievable. Like me, he played street football and then *futebol de salao*. That has helped our understanding. There is not much space in the Premier League. At Anfield teams try to stop us, so it helps if you can see the little bits of space."

January marks the beginning of what might be the most significant year of Coutinho's career so far. He is now one of the most important players in a Liverpool team that holds genuine hope of qualifying for the Champions League for the first time in five seasons, possibly something more. Then there is the World Cup, being held in Brazil.

Coutinho has just one cap for his country and that came against Iran in a friendly three years ago. Brendan Rodgers revealed last month that he speaks regularly with Luiz Felipe Scolari, the manager of the Brazilian national team. The pair know each other from their time at Chelsea. "There is a lot of competition in his position," Rodgers said. "But he really is at that level and he just has to keep playing and pushing his case."

"The first aim is to help Liverpool reach the Champions League," insists Coutinho. "If I do well here, the chances are increased of me being invited to play for Brazil, which would also be a dream. There's a lot to be excited about."

Jon Cotterill has been writing about Brazilian football for over a decade. He's on Twitter @Pitacodogringo

STORY OF A



The significance

The season at one point looked like it might end in league and FA Cup success. Instead, finishing eighth and losing at Wembley was a signal that the club was going backwards rather than contending with the best.

Liverpool had been champions in 1947. But failing to boost the squad before or after the 1949/50 season paved the way for 1954's relegation and an eight-year spell in the Second Division. An over-reliance on star man Billy Liddell was another problem that went unaddressed.

A few weeks after the FA Cup final manager George Kay was hospitalised and the following January worsening health led to his resignation. Bill Shankly was among those interviewed to replace Kay, but it wasn't until his eventual arrival in 1959 that the club began to move forward again.


Home are the defeated FA Cup final heroes





George Kay (left) and the FA Cup final programme centrespread (below)

The league season

For players and supporters alike, glancing at the final league table and the Reds' position of eighth must have been a painful experience. There were many times during the season when a much higher finish – even the title – had seemed within their grasp.

Kay's men began the campaign by putting together an unbeaten 19-game run that stretched into early December. It was halted by a 3-2 defeat at Huddersfield Town, although they were still three points clear at the top despite that maiden reversal.

When mid-February arrived they were once again in that lofty position, until a run of failing to score in four consecutive March outings led to them taking only a single point and plummeting to fourth. Yet Liverpool reclaimed top spot when, seemingly inspired by an FA Cup semi-final win over Everton, they won three league games in a row. That meant as they travelled to Newcastle United on 8 April they were leaders, with just five fixtures remaining. A 5-1 defeat at St James' Park signaled the beginning of a terrible end, as they picked up just a solitary point and slumped downwards to finish five points behind champions Portsmouth.

In the cups

With European football still to be introduced and the League Cup another 11 years away, the only knockout competition available to the Reds was the FA Cup.

Liverpool's participation concluded in front of 100,000 people at Wembley, although a 2-0 defeat by Arsenal was far from what the travelling Kopites had hoped for. At the time that 29 April day out in the capital was only the club's second FA Cup final appearance with the previous one, against Burnley in 1914, also ending in a loss.

The journey that concluded with the game against the Gunners took

SEASON

It was a case of so near and yet so far for Liverpool FC on the cusp of a challenging new decade



"Bob was dropped for the final despite his semi-final goal"

in victories over Blackburn, Exeter City, Stockport County, Blackpool and neighbours Everton.

Billy Liddell and Bob Paisley scored the goals which secured a 2-0 victory over our neighbours in the semi-final at Maine Road. Famously, Paisley was then dropped for the final. Disappointed by the decision, he considered leaving the club only for Albert Stubbins to talk him out of it.

Paisley would later call on the experience when as first-team manager he had to omit players from his own line-ups.

Despite the result in the capital 100,000 people welcomed the team back to Merseyside. Upon seeing the crowd, captain Phil Taylor responded as such: "It's difficult to know what I can say. But I am really overwhelmed. I can only thank you."



Bob Paisley the player

Same league

Portsmouth, whose 1950 title was their second in a row, are now a League Two outfit. Wolves, currently in League One, also had 53 points, losing out on the title due to goal average. Ten of the 22 sides that made up the First Division that year are currently not competing at the highest level of English football.

The tactics

A manager changing tactics mid-game is common in Premier League football. Over six decades ago that was far from the case. There was much discussion at Anfield when, during an FA Cup quarter-final against Blackpool, Billy Liddell and Jimmy Payne swapped wings. It was viewed as revolutionary and crucial in the 2-1 win, sealed by Liddell scoring the decisive goal.

LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB
Official Programme
Liverpool v. Exeter City

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Portsmouth	42	22	9	11	74	38	53
2	Wolves	42	20	13	9	76	49	53
3	Sunderland	42	21	10	11	83	62	52
4	Manchester Utd	42	18	14	10	69	44	50
5	Newcastle Utd	42	19	12	11	77	55	50
6	Arsenal	42	19	11	12	79	55	49
7	Blackpool	42	17	15	10	46	35	49
8	Liverpool	42	17	14	11	64	54	48
9	Middlesbrough	42	20	7	15	59	48	47
10	Burnley	42	16	13	13	40	40	45
11	Derby County	42	17	10	15	69	61	44
12	Aston Villa	42	15	12	15	61	61	42
13	Chelsea	42	12	16	14	58	65	40
14	West Brom	42	14	12	16	47	53	40
15	Huddersfield Town	42	14	9	19	52	73	37
16	Bolton Wanderers	42	10	14	18	45	59	34
17	Fulham	42	10	14	18	41	54	34
18	Everton	42	10	14	18	42	66	34
19	Stoke City	42	11	12	19	45	75	34
20	Charlton Athletic	42	13	6	23	53	65	32
21	Manchester City	42	8	13	21	36	68	29
22	Birmingham City	42	7	14	21	31	67	28

NEW ON THE SCENE

Sam Shields

Signed from Cowdenbeath, Shields was described as 'a brilliant schemer in addition to having a strong shot'. He only made one senior appearance, during a 1-1 draw with Wolves in November 1949 before returning to his native Scotland.

Frank Christie

The Scottish wing half-back had originally signed for Liverpool in 1945 before failing to make the first team and moving on to Forfar Athletic. When he returned to Anfield he did slightly better, playing four league games during 1949/50. The following year he joined East Fife.

Jack Haigh

Signed from Gainsborough Trinity in October 1949, Haigh had to wait until Boxing Day 1950 to make his debut.

LAST CHANCE TO SEE

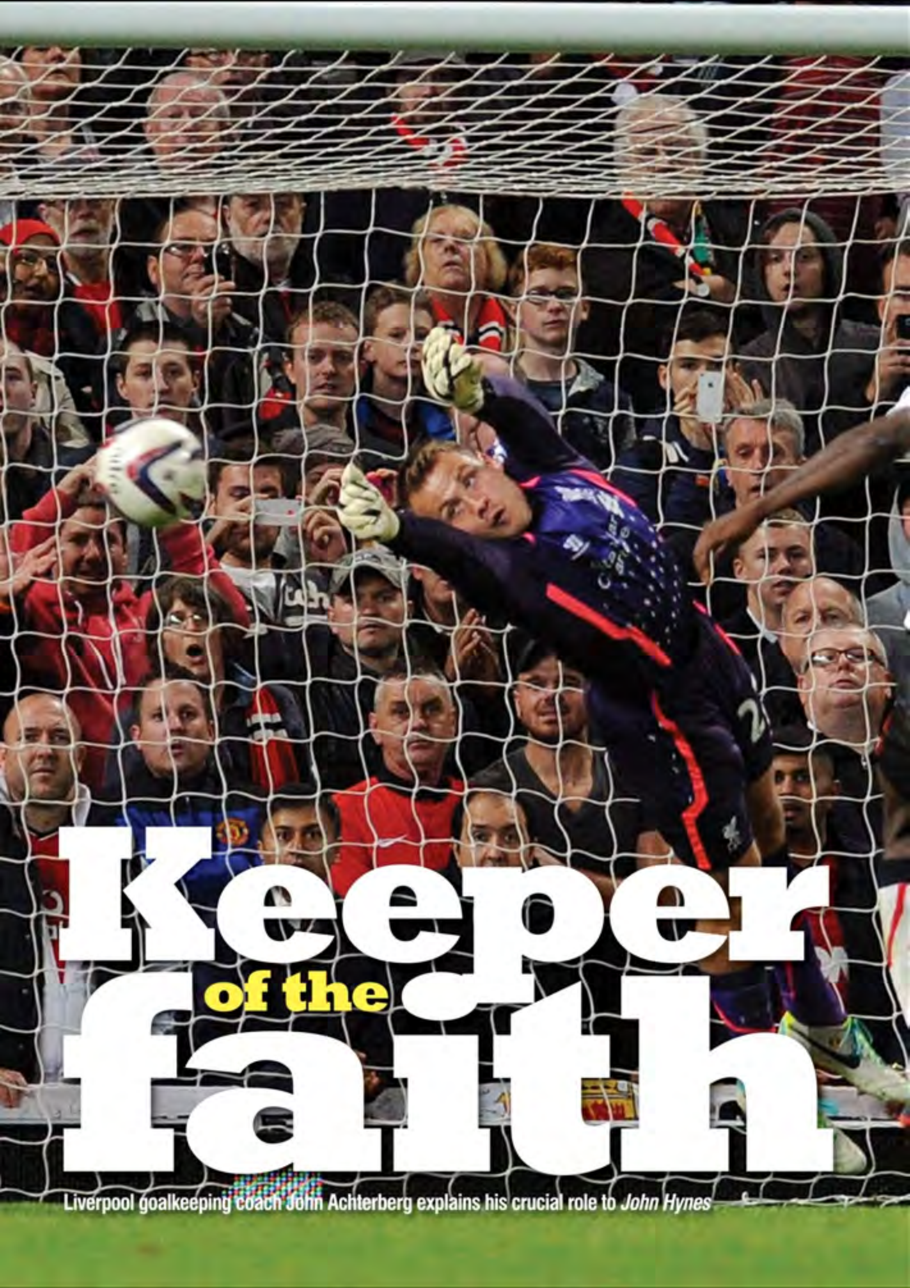
Doug McAvoy

The Scot had moved to Anfield as a 29-year-old in December 1947. He found opportunities scarce and returned north of the border to sign for Queen of the South.

Les Shannon

Local-born centre-forward Les had made 10 appearances during the previous season. Yet he was unable to break in to the team again and left in November 1949. He managed Bury, Blackpool, and clubs in Greece and Norway. His son Dave was an Academy coach.


Les Shannon



Keeper of the faith

Liverpool goalkeeping coach John Achterberg explains his crucial role to *John Hynes*

When you were young was there as much focus on goalkeeping coaching?
It's definitely got a lot better. When I was growing up in Holland there wasn't a lot of training for goalkeepers. At my first club [VVRUC, a team based in his hometown of Utrecht] I had an ex-pro who sometimes worked with me. Then I moved to professional football with Utrecht and trained with specific goalkeeping coaches. That was at the age of 16. Prior to then I taught myself a lot.

For goalkeepers to improve how much is down to having the right attitude?
It does play a part. You need to make things happen for yourself. I tried to pick up ideas and tips from everyone, but I couldn't get all of the technical details by myself. Nowadays youngsters receive that from coaching staff quite early on, which aids their development.

But there is only so much we can do for them. They also need to think about the game in detail, work incredibly hard and train well every day. If you don't have that approach you won't improve. Simon Mignolet is a great example of what I'm talking about. He works at 100 per cent every time he goes out on the training field. That's what has got him to this point in his career and will help him to continue improving.

If a keeper makes a mistake it is replayed endlessly on TV and online – how do you teach youngsters to cope with that?
It might sound harsh but if that affects you too much then you simply aren't good enough to play at the very top. Having that spotlight on you is something a goalkeeper just has to deal with. The same applies when it comes to playing in front of a crowd – you might have only 200 people behind the goal but you have to be able to blank out what they are saying because you might play in front of 40,000 some day. Again if you can't deal with the crowd maybe football isn't for you.

I think in the younger age-groups we can't be too soft in how we prepare the players. They have to know the reality. They have to know there is a certain mentality required to be a goalkeeper in the Premier League.

Decision-making is a vital part of the role...
A goalkeeper has to be able to read situations well. If you don't know when to come off your line, or out of the area, and when to stay put, there is no



John Achterberg

"Simon Mignolet works at 100 per cent every time he goes out on the training field"

hope for you. We do a lot of work on that in training. We try to give the lads solutions or advice on how to deal with those type of incidents. When it comes to a game we obviously can't be on the field telling them what to do. That comes down to their instinct or feeling.

We hear a lot about goalkeepers being able to play with the ball at their feet now...
If a young keeper doesn't have that ability to control and pass the ball, it can be hard to develop. I always look at how well they strike the ball. If they can do that properly, then they'll be able to pass it properly too. If they can't strike the ball, well they might struggle to improve with the ball at their feet.

With every team there is usually a pecking order of first and second choice goalkeeper. How do you approach coaching both at the same time?
I try to treat them exactly the same. Obviously Simon Mignolet is the



Achterberg (far left) with Mignolet, Danny Ward and Brad Jones

first choice for us and Brad Jones is second choice. But when it comes to training Brad is just as important as Simon. If Simon ever picks up an injury Brad has to be 100 per cent ready to play. Something like that happened a few years ago when he came in for the FA Cup semi-final against Everton at Wembley.

They follow similar training schedules because both need to be fresh for a fixture. Where it might differ is after a game. If Simon has played 90 minutes he will have a recovery day. At the same time Brad will do some extra stuff to make sure he remains sharp.

Does your role involve a lot of data analysis?

There are stats for everything in the Premier League. For example I can check how many crosses a goalkeeper catches in a game or a season. Or I can look at how many saves they make. The lads in the analysis department also pass on loads of information to me. I'll look at clips on my laptop or show the goalkeepers DVDs of their performances.

However I also try to watch as many games as possible because sometimes the stats won't give you a complete picture. It might say the keeper caught four crosses – I want to know how many of them were under pressure or did he have to come through a crowd to get the ball? Was the ball driven or floated in? I think

"One goal conceded can cost a manager his job or the players their win bonus"

the eyes are still the best judge of performance. So it's a combination of modern technology and what I see myself. I watch a lot of first-team games, probably around eight every week. I do reports on goalkeepers because I need to know who has potential or who might be able to a good job for the team.

How different is playing for the U18s or U21s compared to senior football?

It's obviously important for the lads to play with the under-age teams we have here. That helps them to improve and progress. Eventually they then have to leave that environment and sample 'real' football. When they do, they quickly find out it's a man's world. If they are playing for a senior team every goal they concede can make a huge difference. One goal might cost the manager his job or the players their win bonus. That's pressure.

Only when a youngster experiences that can they know how difficult it is to be a professional footballer. It's our jobs to ensure that when they make that move to senior football, on loan or permanently, they are ready.

PREMIER LEAGUE KEEPING COACHES

Arsenal – **Gerry Peyton**
Aston Villa – **Terry Gennoe**
Cardiff City – **James Hollman**
Chelsea – **Christophe Lollichon**
Crystal Palace – **George Wood**
Everton – **Inaki Bergara**
Fulham – **Hans Segers**
Hull City – **Gary Walsh**
Man City – **Xabier Mancisidor**
Man United – **Chris Woods**
Newcastle U – **Andy Woodman**
Norwich City – **Dave Watson**
Southampton – **Toni Jimenez**
Stoke City – **Andy Quy**
Sunderland – **Andy Beasley**
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THE
AND


…and sleet and snow. It's that time of year when
the forecast is not always favourable for the match

1 Previous pages: photographer Steve Hale's famous 'Storm over Anfield' captured during Liverpool's European Cup second-round tie against Benfica in October 1984. Despite ceaseless first-half rain the Reds won 3-1 with Ian Rush (below) making light of the waterlogged conditions to claim a hat-trick.
2 In the summer of 2010 new boss Roy Hodgson had to wait for his first game in charge after the pre-season fixture against Saudi Arabian side Al-Hilal was postponed due to unseasonal sheets of rain in Austria.
3 Dreary weather, dismal result – but spectators are in good spirits for Liverpool's first Wembley FA Cup final in 1950, played in heavy rain. Arsenal won 2-0.
4 Kenny Dalglish maintains his focus during a League Cup quarter-final against West Ham in January 1983, helping Liverpool to a 2-1 victory. *The Times* reported: "The stadium resembled the cover of an outdated Christmas card'.
5 It's raining on Craig Bellamy's parade during a December 2006 fixture against Fulham at Anfield – but there must be something in the air as Jamie Carragher is among the scorers in a 4-0 win.
6 White out: Reds striker Geoff Strong is beaten to the ball by the Ferencvaros keeper as Liverpool go down 1-0 to the Hungarian team in a European Fairs Cup third-round second leg in January 1968.




INVEST EVERY WEEK IN
NATIONAL SAVINGS
LIVERPOOL
5
4
crown
paints
6



7 Picturesque snowflakes in arctic conditions at Villa Park for Daniel Agger and John Carew. Liverpool won with a 93rd-minute Fernando Torres strike.
8 Post-war Reds star Albert Stubbins feeling the chill in 1947 – in thick snow he once scored with a spectacular diving header in an FA Cup quarter-final victory over Birmingham City in March 1947.
9 Michael Owen surrounded by Southampton players at a soggy St Mary's Stadium in 2003 – Liverpool prevailed to end an 11-game winless streak.
10 Reds goalkeeper Pepe Reina braves the elements during a 1-0 win for Liverpool at White Hart Lane in December 2006 – Luis Garcia got the goal.
11 Muddy marvels: the first leg of the 1973 UEFA Cup final at Anfield saw Liverpool and Borussia Moenchengladbach getting to grips with torrential rain and a quagmire as well as each other. After half-an-hour of ceaseless rain, the game was called off for 24 hours. Bill Shankly had ordered the club's head groundsman to keep the ptich well-watered believing the Germans disliked soft going, but he couldn't have foreseen such conditions. The Kop sang 'Ee aye addio, we're not going home!' When they returned the following evening (charged a nominal 10p entrance fee) they saw striker John Toshack recalled to wreak havoc and inspire an unassailable 3-0 victory.



11

Hit and mist

Several LFC matches have been affected by thick fog. We don't have any pictures but you probably wouldn't be able to see anything anyway! Here are three famous occasions...

Huge clouds of fog hung heavily over the Olympic Stadium in Amsterdam on the night of 7 December 1966. Liverpool had travelled to Holland to play the first leg of a European Cup second-round tie. In his autobiography Bill Shankly recalled: 'The match should never have started... We were 2-0 down and started trying to retrieve the game. So I went onto the pitch while the game was in progress and was walking about in the fog. I said to Willie Stevenson and Geoff Strong, "This is only the first game – there's another game at Liverpool, so don't go and give away any more goals. Let's get beat 2-0. I walked on to the pitch, talked to the players, and walked off again – and the referee never saw me!" A Johan Cruyff-inspired Ajax side scored three more and won 5-1.

Here to obscurity

In February 1968 Bill Shankly's men had been held to a goalless draw in the fourth round of the FA Cup at Walsall. Two days later at the Anfield replay the sides were confronted by a pea-souper. When Liverpool scored in the 24th minute the Kop chanted: 'We want to know who scored?' The Anfield Road responded with: 'Hateley scored'. 'Thank you very much!' came the reply. This pattern was repeated as Hateley and Geoff Stong added further goals as the Reds ran out 5-2 winners.

Belgian waffle

When Liverpool hosted Anderlecht in the second leg of the European Super Cup at Anfield in December 1978, the supposed showcase match between two of Europe's best descended into farce. Thick fog delayed the kick-off for 15 minutes. Goals from Emlyn Hughes and David Fairclough gave Liverpool a 2-1 win on the night but they lost out 4-3 on aggregate. Manager Bob Paisley said: "It was farcical. There was no way it would have been played if it had been an important game. The only thing I'm glad about is that nobody got hurt."



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Neil MELLOR

Jon Flanagan has ben rewarded for his patience and first-rate attitude



Eleven seasons ago I was called up to Gerard Houllier's first team for the first time in a competitive game along with John Welsh, another reserve, now at Preston. We travelled to play Spartak Moscow in the Champions League. While John did not make the matchday squad I was selected on the bench, although I didn't get on.

Two months later I started for the first time in a League Cup victory over Ipswich Town. My second game was an FA Cup win at Manchester City. Then I scored my first goal in a League Cup semi-final defeat against Sheffield United at Bramall Lane.

Others might see it differently but I thought it was an unfortunate beginning to my professional career. For a start, two of the games being away made it difficult. Before the Ipswich match Houllier told me I was on penalties. It was a big responsibility



and it filled me with confidence. Ten minutes into the second half I was brought down inside the box. Instead, El-Hadji Diouf insisted that he was taking it. At the time he was the club's record signing and struggling to justify the tag because he wasn't scoring enough goals. As a young player I had to go along with it but inwardly I was furious as it was a huge opportunity to make a name for myself. Very few players score on their debuts – I wanted to be one of them. Although Diouf converted his kick I was disappointed I didn't get the chance to do it myself. Then against City, Diouf should have passed to me as I had an open goal in front of me. Instead he had a shot and missed. Again, a crucial goal in a big FA Cup match would have been significant for me.

Eventually I did score in the third game against Sheffield United. It went in right in front of the Liverpool fans. When you see the supporters jumping around you realise how much of an impact you have on the people that pay to watch you play.

Aside from a draw with Aston Villa I didn't start another game for 18 months. That included a loan spell at West Ham. In another life it's possible my first three Liverpool games would have yielded three goals and forced the manager to stick with me.

Considering all of that, I can relate to Jon Flanagan's recent re-emergence as a first-team player. Like me, he had a decent stint before drifting off the scene then returning again. That period away was testing mentally. One minute, nobody is talking about you, the next everyone is, then you're gone again. It's difficult to match that high of competing against the best players when it's taken away.

I remember being on holiday in Portugal in 2011. It was a coincidence that I was in the same hotel at the same time as Jon and his family, including his cousin Bradley Orr. Jon had finished the previous season as Liverpool's right-back under Kenny Dalglish, playing seven times. He wasn't resting on his laurels, though. Every day he was out in the sun keeping fit: jogging, sprinting, or doing gym work. His attitude was first rate.

Although the two seasons that have followed have been frustrating for him, he's hung in there. The reality is, the really hard work only begins when you reach the first team. You can build up to that moment for years but 90 minutes later it can all be gone if you don't play well or, indeed, react the right way to a setback.

It's very easy to believe that it isn't going to work out for you at Liverpool in the long run. It's easier to decide to go somewhere else and play. Jon's attitude and commitment is an example to every other young footballer at Liverpool.

Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33



Days of our lives

Anfield played host to a very special reunion recently – Bill Shankly's historic title winners of 1963/64

Doctor Who and JFK jamborees are all very well but for those steeped in Anfield folklore there's only one 50th anniversary right now that really matters – the half-century since Liverpool FC under Bill Shankly took the title by storm in the swinging season of 1963/64.

Which is why upon this particular Friday evening, in a packed Champions Suite inside Anfield's Centenary Stand, the Merseyside branch of the Official Liverpool FC Supporters Club is hosting a 1963/64 Champions Tribute Night. Everyone here knows that those really were the days, when by some stroke of cosmic serendipity the city of Liverpool became the centre of the universe to a soundtrack of Beatlemania and the Spion Kop, *Ee-aye-addio* and *She Loves You*.

Half-a-century ago this football club, in only its second season back in the big time, unequivocally took the first step on the road to greatness. Tonight a full house is here not just for the nostalgia trip but to honour in person the men on the pitch who made it happen.

Here they come, introduced one-by-one to cheers and applause and vintage rattles; all as smart in jackets, ties and polished shoes as Shanks would expect, and looking genuinely overwhelmed as they walk (and in one or two cases limp) the length of the long room decked in 60s-style banners hailing the champions…

Would you please welcome: midfielder Gordon Milne (now aged 76); inside-forward Gordon Wallace (69); winger Peter Thompson

"Fifty years ago this club took its first step on the road to greatness"

(71); full-back Ronnie Moran (79); goalkeeper Tommy Lawrence (73); left-half Willie Stevenson (74); winger Ian Callaghan (71); centre-half and skipper Ron Yeats (76); and forwards Ian St John and Roger Hunt (both 75, the Saint older by a month-and-a-half).

Sadly a few can't make it – defenders Gerry Byrne and Chris Lawler and inside-forward Jimmy Melia among them – and striker Alf Arrowsmith died in 2005. Also present though are the relatives of Boot Room stalwarts Bob Paisley, Reuben Bennett, Joe Fagan and Geoff Twentyman.

Even the Curlett Cup has put in an appearance. Made by a family of local fans, the Curletts, from one of their mum's old vases – with the top of a bannister used for a lid – this was the trophy paraded by the team on the day they clinched the title when the real silverware was unavailable for presentation. A thumping 5-0 win over Arsenal, the climax of an irresistible run in the second half of the season, was reported like this by the *Echo* correspondent of the time:

The noise when the referee finally did sound the end was so great the whistle could scarcely be heard. Everybody obeyed the instructions to stay behind the terraces except a few boys, and the Liverpool players went down the subway to accompaniment of the chant 'We won the League' and calls for Yeats and manager Shankly.

Then the eleven, plus their mascot, returned to the field almost immediately to a rapturous reception from the terraces, and a standing ovation from everyone in the stands. The roar when they ran in front of the Kop increased by 50 per cent. I don't think I have ever seen such an Anfield scene. It almost baffled description by its warmth and intensity…

Tonight's comperes are BBC Radio Merseyside duo Gary Flintoff and Ian Kennedy, ably assisted by LFC statistician Dave Ball whose gags during the prize draw keep everyone tickled. ("Congratulations, you've won a season-ticket for Old Trafford. It's okay – it's for the cricket.") After this evening's dinner – a posh bowl of Scouse naturally – Gary and Ian ask each player in turn for their personal recollections.

"Before then you've got to remember that the Kop would make a noise for corners and the like, but that was it – there was no actual singing," recalls Gordon Milne, one of three ever-presents in the 1963/94 team. "We were there when that all started, when the Beatles came along. We were young, it was incredible. I feel so privileged to have been part of it."

Ian Callaghan, who scored both goals in a 2-1 win over Everton in the

Shanks (far left), his all-conquering team today (above) and the evening's programme (right)



Anfield derby of September 1963, adds: "We believed in one another. We believed we were the best team. I do hospitality at Anfield now, in the executive boxes, and people often ask if I wished I were playing today with all the trappings that go with it. I say no – I played in the best era, the 60s, the days of Bill Shankly and the Beatles. A kid from Toxteth playing in that environment. It was just a pleasure to be at Liverpool Football Club, it really was."

Livewire winger Peter Thompson says his abiding memory is "being knackered! I didn't know where I was going, what I was doing. I'd get the ball and beat one player, beat two, beat three, then turn around and beat them again! The next season we played Reykjavik in the European Cup and Tommy Smith said to me, 'Peter, you've even beaten *me* twice tonight'."



"The boss told us to work hard for each other and never let down the fans"

Thompson, like all of the legends here tonight, hides his light under a bushel. Willie Stevenson explains: "My job was simply to give the ball to Peter – he was just brilliant."

Finally, a word from the dynamic duo of Hunt and St John. To this day no-one has scored more league goals for Liverpool than 'Sir Roger', and 31 of those 245 came during 1963/64, none of them spot-kicks. "With penalties the boss always told us to side-foot them to the goalkeeper's left but I liked to hit them hard to the goalie's right – so that's why I never took them!"





Gerry Marsden, Merseybeat star (above) and veteran Reds fan (right)

The Saint, who scored 21 league goals of his own that season, says: "Our styles of play just married. Mine was dropping off a bit. People talk about the game today as if it'd only just been invented, but Alfredo Di Stefano was dropping deep 50 years ago. If I was being marked by a defender the boss would say to me, 'Take him for a walk, son', and it suited Roger. He never told Roger to track back. 'You stay up there, son', he'd say.

"He never told Peter not to dribble because he knew it tired opponents out. Cally on the other side was just going to run them, get behind and cross the ball. And then there was Chris Lawler, a full-back. This boy scored 60-odd goals and no penalties or free-kicks. He'd just ghost in to score, you'd bump into him in the box.

"How we all played, it's all down to the boss – he was so ahead of the game. Bill Shankly told us we had to all work for each other. And the fans, we had to play for them. 'Remember, boys', he'd say, 'don't let them down'."



The evening concludes in style, with a late entrance from Gerry Marsden who leads everyone in a rendition of "our song." Individual portraits, painted by Mark Jenkins and sponsored by Mike Lepic from Jamie Carragher's 23 Foundation, are presented to each former player while Les Lawson, chair of the Merseyside branch, pays his own short tribute: "We've all had so many great times as Liverpool fans – St Etienne, Rome, the Double in 86, Istanbul more recently and for many people the best. But believe me, none of that would've been possible without these lads."

Next season of course is the 50th anniversary of Liverpool's first FA Cup win. As another bunch of mop tops, albeit ones with fairer hair from California, once crooned: let's get together and do it again.

Words: David Cottrell



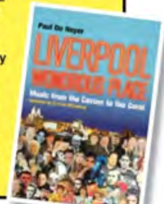


Big Ron and the boys with the Curlett Cup, then and now

'The Liverpool sound'

In his book *Liverpool: Wondrous Place*, music journalist Paul Du Noyer writes: 'The Beatles-inspired rise in Liverpool's prestige was mirrored, with uncanny synchronicity, by the astonishing ascent of Bill Shankly's Liverpool football team… When Bill Shankly led Liverpool Football Club from years of obscurity to the start of unparalleled success – surpassing their previously superior neighbours Everton – the Kop became a national symbol. By an extraordinary coincidence, the team's resurgence occurred precisely at the time of the Beatles' rise and Merseybeat's supremacy. And it was the Kop, that swaying mass of humanity at one end of the Anfield ground, which synthesised the two phenomena. In everyday media discourse in the 1960s, 'the Liverpool sound' was freely used to embrace the music of the terraces as well as of the groups…

'What would amaze outsiders was the Kop's instinctive unanimity. It seemed to think as one: a gigantic, single organism that symbolised the wit, musicality and solidarity of the whole city. *You'll Never Walk Alone* was both instantaneous and permanent. If Rodgers and Hammerstein had sat down and deliberately tried to write an anthem for Liverpool and its people, they could not have come up with anything better'.







ONE OF A KIND

To describe Steve Nicol as a utility player would be paying one of LFC's finest all-rounders a disservice, explains John Hynes

THE LEGENDS' TOUR



Take a guided tour of Anfield with a former LFC player on the award-winning Legends' Stadium Tour

IAN CALLAGHAN

PHIL NEAL

ALAN KENNEDY

JIMMY CASE

JOHN ALDRIDGE

LFC Appearances 104
LFC Goals 63

PHIL THOMPSON

LFC Appearances 477
LFC Goals 13

JAN MOLBY

LFC Appearances 292
LFC Goals 61



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Right-midfield v Arsenal in 1990

Jordan Henderson's ability to play in a variety of positions has impressed both Liverpool supporters and his manager. Normally a central midfielder, the 23-year-old has been used in different roles since moving to Anfield in the summer of 2011.

"At the end of last season he played as a 'false winger' from the left coming inside and got goals," says boss Brendan Rodgers. "He played his first season here wide on the right. He's played as a wing-back, wide of midfield in a four.

"In all the systems what you get from him is a work-rate and a mentality, and Jordan has got quality. I don't see it (being versatile) as a hindrance for him – I see it only as a positive. I know he's really enjoying playing."

And that, according to former player Steve Nicol, is the key to thriving when deployed in other parts of the pitch. The Scot was famous for slotting into various roles and filled half-a-dozen during the 1988/89 campaign alone.

"Did I?" he jokes when speaking to us on the phone from America.

"Let me work it out. Right-back, left-back, centre-back, wide-right, wide-left and centre-mid… That makes up six so it must be true."

The most remarkable part of that is the Scot never looked out of place no matter where Kenny Dalglish put him. "I never thought about it too much," the now 51-year-old says. "I loved playing and when you enjoy it that much you don't care where you are put. You just get on with it. That attitude is important.

"One of the benefits of being versatile is learning what other players want"

"I was needed to do a job and my approach was: I'm getting a game. I always knew I had my main role at full-back. If everyone was fit and there were no suspensions I'd be in one of the full-back spots. Having that in the back of my mind made it easier to play elsewhere."

While growing up in the west of Scotland Steve had demonstrated some versatility, starting out as a left winger. "Then, probably around the age of 13 or 14, I played at centre-back. I think I stayed there until I joined Ayr United as a professional. In their reserves I remember spending more time at full-back than anywhere else. Later on when I made my first-team debut it was in the centre of the defence."

Prior to Liverpool signing Nicol from the Scottish club in October 1981, chief scout Geoff Twentyman had spent 18 months observing him. One of the attributes that convinced Twentyman to recommend the young Scot was his 'sound tactical awareness'.

This must have been one of the reasons why he felt comfortable whether deployed as a left winger or central midfielder?

"I guess so," he reasons.

"I think that is something you pick up from working alongside good players. Even at Ayr we had a lot of experienced guys and you just followed their lead. Then when you join a team like Liverpool there are even



more good players who are also very savvy. You can't help but learn and that probably stood me in good stead if I was asked to fill in somewhere."

Nicol didn't spend an awful lot of time on the training pitch adapting to whatever role the manager had lined up next. "I don't think Kenny decided too early in the week who he might need to move around. Usually it was on a Friday when he or one of the coaching staff would come and tell me where they wanted to put me.

"If I was being moved to the left or right of midfield I didn't see it as much different from playing at full-back. I always got forward a lot no matter where I played. The only difference was when a move broke down you had to run back 70 yards if you were a defender, whereas it was just 40 yards if I was in midfield!"



Steve is now an ESPN soccer pundit

"Jordan Henderson has that same energy and fitness level"

"We were always told to keep it simple. If you are in those habits, as far as passing the ball and moving are concerned, you continue with them no matter where you are playing. There was no need to over-think any of it."

Nicol's high fitness levels – he regularly made lung-bursting runs the length of the pitch – were also a factor. "I think it came from the fact that I enjoyed playing and running around a lot. From there my stamina developed. Jordan Henderson has that energy too. When he was used at right wing-back he had no problem getting up and down the flank. Or, if he starts in the centre of the park, he can break forward and also get back."

While some players might gripe about not being employed in their favourite position, Steve believes trying to do a different job for the team has benefits. "Jamie Carragher was right when he said recently that nobody grows up wanting to be a full-back. Everybody wants to be a winger or a centre-forward or a central midfielder. But I don't think it does any harm to move kids around. Doing so gives them a different perspective of what's required in each role.

"I found one of the major benefits from being versatile was I learned what other players wanted. I understood that a central midfielder wanted a pass that put him in a good position to make another pass. It wasn't just a case of firing the ball at him. I also learned where and when players wanted the ball delivered. I'm sure Jordan has picked up stuff like that too."

By the time he left Liverpool in January 1995 Nicol had made 468 appearances and won league titles, FA Cups and the European Cup. One of the reasons for that success was the versatile individuals within the group.

"It's very important to have that. There are always times when a manager has to move around players due to different reasons. When that occurs it's not about just sticking someone in the vacant position – the player must have the quality to do a decent job for the team. He has to go in there and ensure the standards remain high.

"If you have guys like that it can give you an edge over your rivals."

Here, there & everywhere

Matt McQueen: made over 100 appearances in every position – including goalkeeper – at the end of the 19th century. He helped Liverpool to the Second Division title in both 1893/94 and 95/96 before demonstrating his versatility after retiring – first qualifying as a referee then joining the club's board of directors and in 1923 managing the team as they retained the First Division title.
Geoff Strong: scored 69 goals in 125 games as a striker for Arsenal before Bill Shankly paid £40,000 for him in 1964. The manager's forward options meant he used Strong as a left-half initially. Geoff did play some games upfront but only when others such as Roger Hunt were unavailable. His last two years at Anfield were spent at left-back.




Candy

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ALL OF US STAND STRONG

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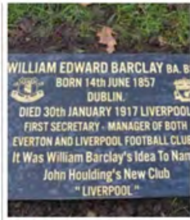
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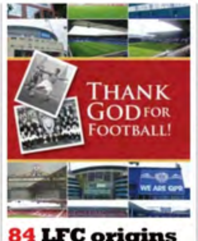


PICK THAT ONE OUT
Liverpool's best goal of 2013 – your Tweets

The bit at the back for Liverpool's legions of fans at home and all over the world…









LIVERPOOL V EVERTON

Barclays Premier League Tuesday 28 January

DERBY DATE

After an exhilarating Merseyside derby at Goodison Park in November, the Reds and Blues reconvene at Anfield hoping to serve up a similarly attacking feast of football. Everton have not won at Anfield since September 1999 while Steven Gerrard has fond memories of the last night-time derby – his hat-trick gave the Reds a 3-0 home win in March 2012. January also sees Brendan Rodgers' side go in search of a Premier League double against Aston Villa.

The month

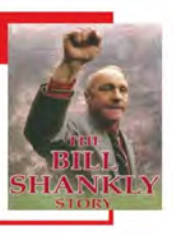
LADIES DAY

Liverpool Ladies FC, the reigning FA Womens Super League champions, report back for pre-season training on 13 January. Manager Matt Beard will begin putting plans together for an exciting year which will also see the team play in the Champions League for the first time. Joining Liverpool FC magazine columnist Amanda Da Costa (right) and co is new signing Martha Harris, an England Under-20 defender formerly with Lincoln Ladies.



SHANKS SHOW IN SOUTHPORT

Tickets are now available for *The Bill Shankly Story* at Southport's Atkinson Theatre on Friday 7 February. Legends Ian Callaghan and Chris Lawler join presenter John Keith and narrator Steve Hazlehurst and tickets are priced £16 (£13 concessions). Call 01704 533333 or visit www.theatkinson.co.uk.



ahead

DON'T MISS ANY OF THE BUILD-UP ON LFC TV

ANNIVERSARIES

6 years since Lucas scored his first goal for Liverpool on 26 January (right).
8 years since Daniel Agger joined the club from Brondby son 12 January.
17 years since Jamie Carragher scored his first goal for the Reds on 18 January.
23 years since Jamie Redknapp joined the Reds on 15 January.
36 years since Graeme Souness made his Liverpool debut.
68 years since Billy Liddell and Bob Paisley made their LFC debuts.



BIRTHDAY XI

Danny Ward 21 on	22 Jan
Jon Flanagan 21 on	1 Jan
Jose Enrique 28 on	23 Jan
Phil Thompson 60 on	21 Jan
Jamie Carragher 36 on	28 Jan
Hughie McAuley 61 on	8 Jan
Lucas Leiva 27 on	9 Jan
Peter Beardsley 53 on	18 Jan
Luis Suarez 27 on	24 Jan
David Fairclough 57 on	5 Jan
Peter Crouch 33 on	30 Jan



LFC TV Q&A WITH RICKY MEARS CAMERA OPERATOR



First game you remember?
I'm not sure but my early memorwies of Anfield were from when my uncle used to take me in to see the last 10 or 15 minutes of the match. At a guess, my first full game was Leeds at home in 95.

Favourite player growing up?
Loads! Barnes, Rush, Fowler, McManaman, Carragher… But when Steven Gerrard came onto the scene I knew he was going to be a special player for Liverpool. There was something about him which stood out from the rest. I just loved his aggression and desire, and being a local lad made me admire him even more.

How hard is it separating being a fan and doing your job?
It's tough. I do miss going to the matches with the lads. I'm still at most home games and the odd away game with work but it is different to being in the stands with the lads. I was working at the derby, filming behind the Park End goal and when Coutinho scored in the first few minutes I was dying to jump up but had second thoughts!

Assuming Istanbul is your favourite game, what's no2 on your list?
I loved the 4-3 Newcastle games in 95 and 96. Back then I used to sneak into the pub by mine with a few mates to watch matches, and those games always stick in my mind. But I would say the Gerrard FA Cup final of 2006 has to be up there. He was unreal that day.

Star you were happiest to meet?
When I was about 13 I was getting off a bus after playing golf with my mates and saw Stevie G standing in a car park by mine. I was amazed and didn't know what to say. I got his autograph and went home buzzing.

Favourite opposition player?
Sergio Aguero. He is great to watch and that last-minute goal against QPR to prevent you-know-who from winning the league made me like him more!

Funniest moment at work?
I'll never forget the pre-season tour in Thailand. Steven Gerrard went to pay his respects to the King with Brendan Rodgers and Ian Ayre. The amount of people there was unbelievable and trying to film it all was quite a task. I was bouncing off people who were going nuts trying to catch a glimpse of Steven. The look on Brendan's face in this picture (below) sums it up brilliantly.



DON'T FORGET THE BUY-BACK SERVICE



Many of Liverpool FC's Premier League clashes at Anfield are sell-outs – but if you can't attend the game we have a suggestion for season-ticket holders. Why not return your seat using our Buyback service and receive credit against the cost of your 2014/15 season-ticket if your seat is re-sold to another official LFC member? Visit **www.liverpoolfc.com/tickets/ticket-exchange** or call **0843 170 5555** for details.



IT'S GOALS GOALS GOALS ON LFC TV

We're kicking off the New Year in style on LFC TV with the launch of a brand new series and six new episodes of an old favourite.

Airing for the first time on 2 January will be *Back Of The Net* – a show that profiles a selection of Liverpool's most prolific goalscorers from the Premier League era. This action-packed, fast-paced programme features a mixture of goals, stats and quotes relating to the chosen player.

There are six episodes lined up for the inaugural series with the focus falling on Robbie Fowler, Danny Murphy, Peter Crouch, Dirk Kuyt, John Arne Riise and Luis Garcia.

Half-a-dozen ex-players will also figure as we re-launch the ever-popular *Sixty Minutes With*. Prepare to sit back and relax as six notable former Reds talk in-depth about their Liverpool careers.

The new series begins on 20 January with wing wizard of the Seventies, Steve Heighway, and he'll be followed by fellow Kop legends John Barnes, Mark Lawrenson and Ray Houghton, plus two men whose LFC stories we very rarely hear, Steve Staunton and Phil Babb.

For just £2.99 **LFC TV Online** allows you to watch LFC TV live and will give you on-demand access to all the team's goals, highlights, live reserve and Under-18 games, news and exclusive video interviews. For more information please visit **www.liverpoolfc.com/video**.

Delayed coverage of every game will also be available on LFC TV which is free to view on **Sky channel 429** or **Virgin channel 544**. For full listings visit **www.liverpoolfc.com**.









FIXTURES 13/14

AUGUST

17 Stoke City **(H)**	1-0
24 Aston Villa **(A)**	1-0
27 Notts County **(H)** (COC 2)	4-2*

SEPTEMBER

1 Manchester Utd **(H)**	1-0
16 Swansea City **(A)**	2-2
21 Southampton **(H)**	0-1
25 Manchester Utd **(A)** (COC 3)	0-1
29 Sunderland **(A)**	3-1

OCTOBER

5 Crystal Palace **(H)**	3-1
19 Newcastle Utd **(A)**	2-2
26 West Brom **(H)**	4-1

NOVEMBER

2 Arsenal **(A)**	0-2
9 Fulham **(H)**	4-0
23 Everton **(A)**	3-3

DECEMBER

1 Hull City **(A)**	1-3
4 Norwich City **(H)**	5-1
7 West Ham Utd **(H)**	4-1
15 Tottenham H **(A)**	5-0
21 Cardiff City **(H)**	
26 Manchester City **(A)**	
29 Chelsea **(A)**	

JANUARY 2013

1 Hull City **(H) 3:00pm**
5 Oldham/Mansfield **(H) 3:00pm**
12 Stoke City **(A) 4:10pm**
18 Aston Villa **(H) 5:30pm**
28 Everton **(H) 8:00pm**

FEBRUARY

2 West Brom **(A) 1:30pm**
8 Arsenal **(H) (H) 12:45pm**
12 Fulham **(A)**
22 Swansea City **(H)**

MARCH

1 Southampton **(A)**
8 Sunderland **(H)**
15 Manchester Utd **(A)**
22 Cardiff City **(A)**
29 Tottenham H **(H)**

APRIL

5 West Ham Utd **(A)**
12 Manchester City **(H)**
19 Norwich City **(A)**
26 Chelsea **(H)**

MAY

3 Crystal Palace **(A)**
11 Newcastle Utd **(H)**
17 FA Cup final

* after extra-time

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Away days

With a trip to Stoke in mid-January one Red recalls past matches at both Potters homes

Stoke's old stadium, the Victoria Ground, was "a very intimidating venue," says London-based Reds fan Scott McGovern. "They made a real noise there."

Now 42, he'd started going to Liverpool away games in the late Seventies. "It was a few years later that I first went to Stoke. Despite the raucous reception they greeted every team with, we didn't lose there too often. I think we might have had the odd draw but not too many defeats.

"Rather than the scorelines or any particular goals, what stands out for me from those trips was a few of their players – such as Garth Crooks. Back then he was only famous for playing. He wasn't an annoying pundit on TV! It was before he joined Spurs and I remember thinking he would have made a good signing for us.

"George Berry is another Stoke player who I can remember clearly. He had been with Wolves first and had a huge head of hair that really made him stand out. He wasn't a bad defender either."

After Stoke were relegated in 1985, meetings between the sides were confined to the cups. One of the most memorable of those knock-out encounters arrived in 2000. "I think the scoreboard operator lost count, gave us one goal too many and put up 9-0,"

Suarez scores a winner in 2011





Britannia Stadium



recalls Scott. "Eight-nil was a brilliant victory. We probably should have been a goal down very early on after a poor kick from Pegguy Arphexad, who was making a very rare appearance, but they missed a great chance.

"From there we went on to completely dominate. Around half the goals seemed to come from Gary McAllister corners. Robbie Fowler was in great form too, getting a hat-trick."

By far the most eventful of Scott's many trips to the Potteries occurred at another League Cup fourth-round tie. "It was October 2011 when Kenny was in charge. The kick-off was obviously in the evening so we left London in the early afternoon. We had a few beers beforehand in the Harvester pub near the ground. We'd all spoken about getting away as quickly as possible afterwards, because our train was leaving roughly half-an-hour after the final whistle."

On a bitterly cold evening two Luis Suarez goals eclipsed Kenwyne Jones' headed opener and swung the tight contest in Liverpool's favour. "They were lovely strikes, especially the first one where he nut-megged the defender and then bent it in to the far corner. The winner came five minutes

> **"The late winner from Luis left us stuck outside"**

from the end and meant we stayed right until the final whistle because we were enjoying it all so much.

"The problem was we got stuck on the concourse with all the other fans on the way out. We had to wait 15 minutes before we could get out."

The delay meant their pre-booked cab departed without them. "The girls who'd travelled up with us had to go to the station and they just made it. That left [my friend] Greg and me. Around the ground was complete gridlock so we couldn't flag down a replacement cab. As we stood there in vain we quickly realised we wouldn't be getting home until the next day."

Nearby they spotted the





The Stanley Matthews statue outside the stadium

Stoke City v Liverpool
4.10pm Sunday 12.01.14

"We didn't lose too often at the old Victoria Ground"



Ronnie Whelan v Mark Chamberlain (above) and goal king Fowler

bright lights of a Holiday Inn. "Bizarrely, every room was gone – the place was fully booked. We couldn't believe it. The only option was to find a B&B in Stoke city centre. After an hour we did manage to get a taxi and headed in to town. Because I'd usually been in Stoke for afternoon games I didn't really recognise the place in the dark. We wandered around for about ninety minutes looking for a B&B."

They ended up in the Hanley area of the city and stumbled upon a place to stay. "Calling it a B&B is probably generous," he laughs again. "It was a bit creepy and resembled the type of holiday home the Addams family would've liked. Knowing we were running out of options I reluctantly knocked on the door. An old lady answered. She told us the cost was £17.50 in total, which was pretty reasonable."

After a quick glance around the single room they agreed to take it and went out to get some grub. "Most of the time was spent in a student bar where they sold pints for a pound. Our food consisted of a kebab at 3am. While eating it we remembered we'd come out without a key. We had to bang on the door for ages before the same woman eventually woke up and let us in."

It was at that point they realised there was only one bed in the room. "The place was very basic, just a sink and a tiny single bed. Greg jumped in to that. I was left with the laminate floor. I had to put a few cushions against the door to keep out the draught. Of course the fact that we'd had a few drinks meant I needed the toilet at 5am. When I flushed it the handle came clean off in my hand. Around 6.30am we got up and quickly left without saying anything to the landlady."

They didn't have to wait too long for the first train back to the capital and with much relief jumped on board. "Our comedy trip seemed to be over. Then the train broke down at Birmingham International Airport. We sat there for three hours. By now my wife was on the phone going ballistic. So I told her if she drove to Nuneaton the train was stopping there and I'd get off to meet her."

The train didn't stop. Instead it went straight through and on towards London. "My wife and two daughters were left standing there watching it whizz past. I finally got home at about quarter-past-three in the afternoon. I've never had another away trip like it and I'll never forget the bed and breakfast. At least we won the game, and went on to win the cup later in the season."

CLASSIC CLASH

09.3.82 First Division
Stoke City 1 Liverpool 5

This victory left the eventual champions in fourth place with 15 fixtures left. Above them at the time were leaders Southampton, Swansea City and Manchester United. All three were leapfrogged thanks to ruthless displays such as the one at the Victoria Ground. Terry McDermott, Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness had all found the net prior to the hosts responding through Sammy McIlroy. If some of the 16,758 inside the stadium were dreaming of a comeback, their hopes were vanquished by goals from Sammy Lee and Ronnie Whelan.



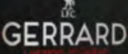
GERRARD

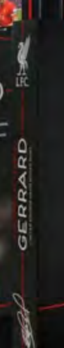
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What a night



Reds boss Brendan Rodgers took time out of his busy schedule last month to attend the Liverpool Disabled Supporters Association's 10th Anniversary Christmas Gala Dinner.

The LDSA has more than 400 members and is one of the largest football disabled supporters associations in the world. Brendan welcomed 180 members to the annual event, which took place in the Reds Lounge at Anfield Stadium, and thanked them for their ongoing support of the club.

"It is an honour to be invited to join the LDSA's celebrations," he said. "Reaching their 10th anniversary is a testament to their ongoing commitment to making positive changes for all our disabled supporters."

After his welcome Brendan made his way around each of the tables to sign autographs and have photos taken alongside LFC legends David Fairclough and Alan Kennedy. Former LDSA president David, who has represented the Association for the past 12 months, handed over the title to ex-Reds manager Roy Evans.

Colin McCall, disability and

Brendan Rodgers with LDSA members at the gala dinner (above and right)

"This event marked a very important milestone"

accessibility officer at LFC, added: "This event marked a very important milestone for the LDSA and it was fantastic to have Brendan and the legends in attendance. We continue to make great progress for our members both on a matchday with regards to accessibility and through our Liverpool FC Foundation programmes which our members are greatly involved in."

Some of the LDSA's key achievements this year include; assisting with the consultation for stadium improvements for all disabled supporters and launching a new podcast for all disabled supporters but particularly aimed at blind and visually-impaired members who cannot access the text website.



The boss says a few words in the Reds Lounge

Mamadou with pupils at All Saints Primary School and coaching (below)

COACHING WITH MAMADOU

Reds defender Mamadou Sakho was announced as an ambassador for the club's official charity at a local school in Anfield last month. Mamadou's new role with Liverpool FC Foundation will complement the work that team-mate Lucas Leiva undertakes as trustee.

As part of his role the 23-year-old French international will visit All Saints Primary School to assist Liverpool FC Foundation community coaches who deliver football sessions at the school each week as well as help pupils with their French Language studies.

"Community work is something that I am really passionate about as I think it is very important to give something back," he says. "As an ambassador for the Liverpool FC Foundation I am hoping to lend my support to their fantastic initiatives as much as I can." Sakho plans to visit the school at least once a month throughout the rest of the season.

LIVERPOOL'S FORGOTTEN MAN

A new headstone placed in Anfield Cemetery by two LFC historians commemorates the club's first secretary-manager





The 1892 team outside the Sandon Hotel with Barclay seated by owner John Houlding (with ball) and manager John McKenna

A pair of Reds have paid their own tribute to the first secretary-manager of both Everton and Liverpool Football Clubs.

When William Barclay died in January 1917, aged 59, he was buried in a pauper's grave having lost contact with the footballing community during a tragic end to his life. But keen football historian George Rowlands and LFC stats aficionado Jonny Stokkeland felt his contribution to the birth of senior football on Merseyside should be marked. They commissioned a new headstone to be placed on his grave at Anfield Cemetery.

"In many ways William Barclay is the forgotten man when people talk about significant figures in the early days of both clubs," explains George. "He was close to John Houlding [the club's founder] and there is no doubt that, along with [first manager] John McKenna, he played a significant part in the club's formative days. In fact, after the split from Everton, it was he who suggested to John Houlding that the new club be named Liverpool Football Club."

George and Jonny contacted the cemetery and located the area where Barclay was buried. A cemetery spokesman said: "It is likely that he would've been buried with up to five other adults and there may have been young children placed on top. There are thousands of people buried in pauper's graves in this cemetery."

The new headstone was put into position on 29 November 2013 and will later be mounted onto a plinth. "We just felt it was the right thing that he should be commemorated in this way," added Jonny. "John McKenna's contribution is well-documented and rightly so, but many of the history books overlook the role of Barclay."

"It was Barclay who suggested to Houlding the club's new name after the split with Everton"

Other people with a strong LFC connection buried at Anfield Cemetery include second manager Tom Watson, goalkeeper Ned Doig, forward Jack Parkinson, and the Orrel brothers from whom Houlding bought Anfield.

An article in the *Liverpool Journal* of 17 November 1894 described Barclay as 'a very great enthusiast in football management…a most successful organiser, a fine judge of the great game and knows everybody in the football world. Few men have travelled so much to football matches as he. One of Mr John Houlding's staunchest supporters…widely known and everywhere esteemed. An able man all round'.

WHO WAS WILLIAM BARCLAY?

George Rowlands' meticulous research has revealed much about the life of William Barclay.

He was born in the South Dublin Workhouse on 14 June 1857, the oldest of five boys. He married Emily Jane King in 1878 and they lived on Everton Terrace. Their first child died before his first birthday.

An Everton season-ticket list of 1884/85 records Barclay as the club's vice-president. In 1891 he chaired the meeting at which he proposed John Houlding's resolution to form Everton into a limited liability company. Four days after Everton decided not to accept Houlding's proposal, including an increased rent of Anfield, Barclay tendered his resignation from the club. He continued working with Houlding to form a new team and proposed the name Liverpool Football Club believing it would attract supporters from all over the city. In August 1896 he was replaced as secretary-manager by the successful Sunderland boss Tom Watson.

Six years later Barclay's wife Emily reportedly suffered a mental breakdown following an operation and was admitted as a patient to Haydock Lodge Hospital. Over the next 12 years she was admitted to three different hospitals and died in 1915. William subsequently led a solitary life and died in 1917. That he was buried in a public grave indicates his family was not aware of his death.

Come all ye faithful

A local historian explores the remarkable roots of Liverpool's two football clubs

Liverpool supporters with an interest in football history will be fascinated by a brand new DVD hosted by local historian Peter Lupson.

Peter has conducted meticulous research into the church origins of a dozen English football clubs and was the man behind the acclaimed book *Across The Park*, detailing the formation of Liverpool and Everton. Now his first book *Thank God For Football* has been turned into a DVD and enjoyed a worldwide release as a TV documentary.

The project was launched at the National Football Museum in Manchester with guests from football, media and Christian organisations. Peter scripted and presents the DVD which covers the stories of the 12 clubs featured in the book, including the Reds and Blues.

He reveals how Methodist minister Benjamin Swift Chambers established a cricket club for members of his young men's Bible class within months of arriving at St Domingo's chapel in north Liverpool, so-called from the neighbouring streets of Domingo Grove and St Domingo Vale. It was out of this cricket club that a football section was formed and ultimately Everton FC came into existence.

The DVD covers Everton's growth, the arrival of John Houlding, the move from Stanley Park to Priory Road in Anfield and 'the split' which led to Liverpool FC's foundation in 1892. It also catalogues the roles of key figures such as Houlding, Alfred Wade, Will Cuff and George Mahon.



Peter (second from right) at the DVD launch with John Motson and TV directors Crawford Telfer and Malcolm Turner

Peter says: "I am extremely grateful for the support the project has received from everyone at the clubs, and Liverpool FC were fantastic in allowing us the freedom to film around Anfield. The clubs have engaged whole-heartedly with their humble roots.

"I was trying to rescue people from oblivion to who we owe so much. We had great fun filming the DVD and also visited locations not normally associated with football including the white cliffs of Dover, St David's Cathedral in Pembrokeshire, Cambridge University and the cellar of a Barnsley pub!"

The DVD was released as a television documentary in the USA in August and has been dubbed for broadcast in China, Japan and Vietnam. It's hoped that some of Peter's research will be incorporated into the headsets as part of the recently re-launched Liverpool FC museum tour.

Thank God For Football is available from the shop at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral or via www.cta.uk.com priced £10.



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Stars of Singapore

Stevie and the Reds top country's big football survey

It's no great secret that Liverpool Football Club enjoys a strong fanbase in countries all over the world – and that's certainly the case in Singapore.

The sovereign island city-state in South East Asia loves its Barclays Premier League football, and in a previous issue of the magazine we featured its official Liverpool FC fan club which came into being in August 2000 and now boasts more than 5,000 loyal members.

Such is the interest in the English game that national newspaper *The Straits Times* recently conducted a survey into the preferences of the average football supporter in Singapore.

"As you can see it shows that most people in Singapore support Liverpool – in fact almost half the fans surveyed are Reds!" says Henry Han, vice-president of the official Liverpool FC fan club.

"Steven Gerrard is their favourite player with Philippe Coutinho coming in fourth on the list. The findings make us very proud to be Reds here and we're all hopeful that 2014 will be as good as 2013."

Premier League popularity (3,000 fans polled)

1,434 Liverpool
712 Man United
25 Arsenal
197 Newcastle
184 Chelsea
94 Tottenham
80 Everton
34 Man City

Favourite leagues

1. Premier League
2. Spanish Primera
3. Italian Serie A
4. German Bundesliga
5. French Ligue One

Favourite players

1. Steven Gerrard 31.9%
2. Robin van Persie 9.3%
3. Ryan Giggs 3.5%

Nine out of 10 fans are male.
49% have bought at least a jersey.
18% have made the long trip to **England to watch a match.**
73% watch games at home compared to 11% in bars and 5% in cafes.
Over half get their Prem Lge news online compared to 29% via papers and 19% through TV and radio.



How we covered the Singapore fan club last year

The Straits Times EPL fan survey:

THE FINAL SCORE

More than 3,000 of you have spoken and the message is loud and clear. Singapore bleeds red – Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal red*

ANATOMY OF THE SINGAPORE EPL MAN

HIS OWN MAN

A typical Singaporean fan chooses his club without the influence of others.

How did you choose the club?

Chose yourself	77%
Family	18%
Schoolmates	4%
Work colleagues	1%

HE'S A RED MAN

- Nine out of 10 Singapore EPL fans are male.
- About 70 per cent of all fans wear either Liverpool or Manchester United red.
- Another 8 per cent support Arsenal, whose jersey is also predominantly red.

EPL NEWS JUNKIE

- Online 53%
- Newspapers 29%
- TV 14%
- Radio 5%

WEARS HEART ON HIS SLEEVE

- Singapore fans love their football but are prudent when it comes to buying merchandise – only 21 per cent of respondents have spent above $1,000.
- Here are their favourite merchandise:

Jerseys 49% having bought at least a jersey

Toiletries, mugs and clocks 23%

Posters 13%

...ACH FOR JUNK FOOD

...y food for the Singapore EPL ...w are the four favourite things ...nes while watching matches

And he usually eats in – 73 per cent of respondents watch EPL games at home, 11 per cent in pubs and 5 per cent in coffee shops.

LOYAL, BUT FROM AFAR

- More than 80 per cent of respondents said they supported their clubs for 10 or more years.
- However, only 555 of them (18 per cent) have actually made the trip to England to watch an EPL match.

FAVOURITE TEAMS

1. Liverpool
2. Manchester United
3. Arsenal

EPL POPULARITY TABLE

Team	Fans
Liverpool	1,434 (47%)
Manchester United	712
Arsenal	257
Newcastle	197
Chelsea	184
Tottenham	94
Everton	80
Manchester City	34

0 300 600 900 1,200 1,500

Others:	
Aston Villa	8
Relegated clubs	8
Southampton	7
West Ham	5
Stoke	4
Swansea	3
Sunderland	2
Norwich	2
Fulham	2
Cardiff	2
Crystal Palace	1
West Brom	0
Hull	0

MALE VS FEMALE

- Male 2,726 (90%)
- Female 310 (10%)

YEARS OF SUPPORT

- 1 to 5: 220 (7%)
- 6 to 10: 404 (13%)
- 11 to 15: 564 (19%)
- 16 to 20: 592 (20%)
- 21 to 30: 682 (22%)
- 31 to 40: 418 (14%)
- 40 and above: 152 (5%)

FAVOURITE PLAYERS

1. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool) 31.9%
2. Robin van Persie (Manchester United) 9.3%
3. Ryan Giggs (Manchester United) 3.5%

FAVOURITE FOOTBALL LEAGUES

1. English Premier League
2. Spanish Primera Liga
3. Italian Serie A
4. German Bundesliga
5. French Ligue One
6. J-League
7. K-League
8. S-League
9. Malaysian Super League

TOP OF THE KOPS part four

Continuing our series in which Reds fans from top bands pick their favourite Liverpool players for every special occasion...



Andy Brown from Lawson

Good night out

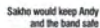
I'd have to say Steven Gerrard. I'd love to hear some stories from his time at the club. Also what his best goals were and the best players he'd played with and against. The best venue would be a nice bar or a pub in town. Somewhere like Hannah's on Hardman Street would be perfect.

Best dressed

I reckon the best fashion sense would have to be Jamie Redknapp – although I'm not sure he pulled off that white suit during the Spice Boys era. Worst fashion sense would be Djibril Cisse – you only have to look at some of the man's hairstyles to figure that one out!

The muscle

I wouldn't look further than Mamadou Sakho. I definitely wouldn't mess with him! As a backup, Martin Skrtel. That's a pretty solid security team on the road right there.



Sakho would keep Andy and the band safe



Front man

This is tough one as I think a good front man needs to possess a number of different qualities. If it was looks, I'd be giving it to our former midfielder Patrik Berger, or Lucas a few seasons ago when his hair was something straight out of Kings Of Leon.

Roadie

The perfect roadie would be Luis Suarez. He never stops and always puts in 100%. He's strong and powerful, perfect for carrying the amps in the venue, and he's also quick which would work great at festivals if we're setting up on a tight schedule. I wonder if he can tune a guitar!

Live at Anfield

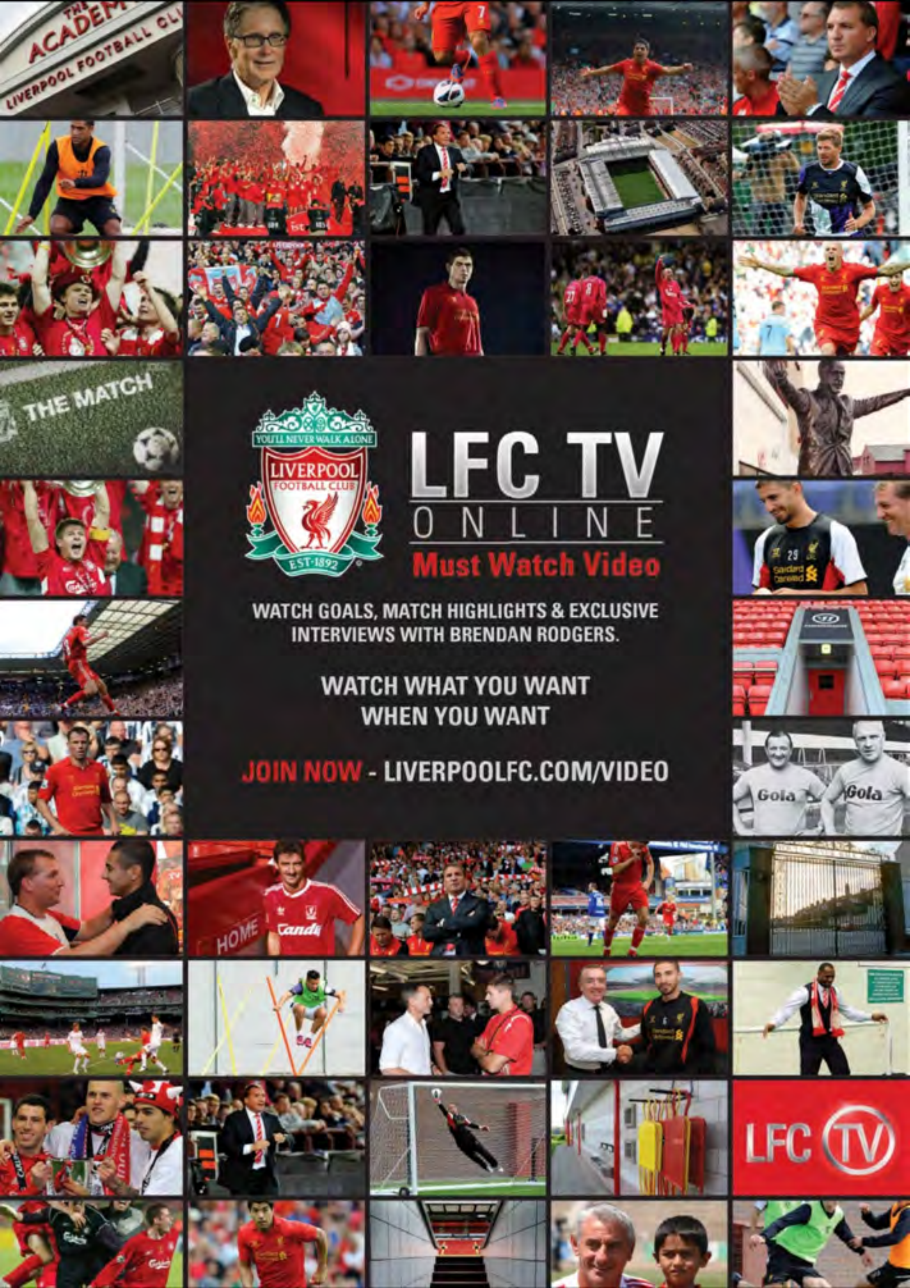
Paul McCartney. I've been a massive fan of Macca ever since I learnt to play guitar and his was the first gig I ever went to with my dad when I was 15. If we could support him at Anfield one day, it would just be a dream come true.

> "Supporting Macca at Anfield would be a dream"

No1 album or league title?

So hard to answer because I've been watching Liverpool for 20 years and not seen them lift the Premier League trophy. The ideal situation would be for Liverpool to win the league, then we get a no1 with our third album. I'd settle for a no2 album for now.

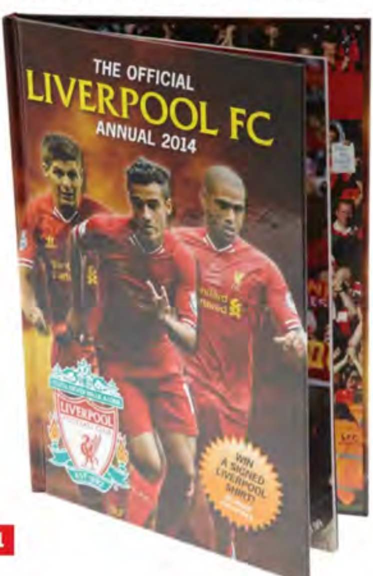




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WISH LIST

In the new year there's simply no excuse for not supporting the Mighty Reds in style – and these are just a few must-haves from the **Official LFC Collection**. The new range in its entirety can be viewed and purchased online at **www.liverpoolfc.com/store** and any Official LFC Club Store.



1



2



3

1 LFC 2014 Annual £7.99
The new year's ultimate companion book for staunch Reds everywhere, pakced with fantastic features, pictures and prizes. (A2264)

2 Waxed Cotton Borg Trapper Hat £20
Warm, toasty, and totally trendy. With temperatures dipping this fashion-forward hat will keep you cosy with its lining and flaps over the ears. (A1954)

3 LFC Men's Pea Coat £65
This on-trend navy blazer-style coat comes with an eight-button front fastening and two front pockets and features a metal Liver Bird popper button on the collar. (A2409)

4 Coninsby Grey Polo Shirt £22
Give your LFC collection a hit of contemporary style with this grey polo with subtle embroidered crest and red trim. (A2838)

5 LFC Navy Fashion Fairaisle Gloves £12
These snug and stylish navy-patterned gloves are designed to go with everything in your winter matchday repertoire. Just the ticket for a frosty 90 minutes at Anfield! (A1942)

6 Coninsby Red Polo Shirt £22
Prefer your street-cool polo shirt in red? This ultra-smart modern-classic has the same club crest but with a white trim. (A2834)

All featured products are available in official club stores and online at **www.liverpoolfc.com/store**

4



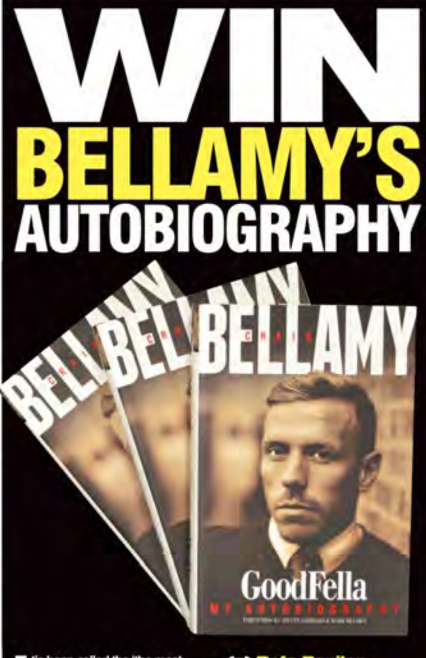


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6

WIN BELLAMY'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY



It's been called the 'the most explosive football autobiography of the year' and we've got three copies to give away.

Craig Bellamy: GoodFella is a no-holds-barred, whistle-stop ride through a football career in the fast lane. The passionate Welsh striker, who enjoyed two spells with boyhood heroes Liverpool, shared dressing-rooms with some of the biggest stars in the game and made plenty of friends and enemies along the way.

Like the man himself, the book doesn't hold back. *Goodfella* is available on Amazon, at merseyshop.com and from all good bookstores, and all proceeds will be donated to the Craig Bellamy Foundation.

For a chance to win a copy simply answer the following question:

In August 2011 which manager re-signed Craig for Liverpool?

(a) Rafa Benitez
(b) Kenny Dalglish
(c) Roy Hodgson

The closing date for entries is Friday 7 February 2014. Email your answer – including your name and address please – to LFCmag@programmemaster.com. Please put BELLAMY BOOK COMPO in the subject bar. We'll announce the winners in a forthcoming issue.

COMPO WINNERS

The winner of the brilliant LFC Beats headphones (Issue 16 competition) is: Ieuan Rutherford of Milford Haven.

The winners of the Official Treasures of Liverpool FC book (Issue 16) are: Jonathan Radford of Stevenage; Philip Steam of Cambridge; Tony Hillman of Launceston; Will Neville of Liverpool L22; Ian McDonald of Auckland, New Zealand; Suwong Pukahuta of Bangkok; and Matthew Dick of Enfield.


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4 December
Luis Suarez with the match ball following his four goals against Norwich #LFC #theKOP



4 December
The Shankly Gates pre-Norwich #LFC



16 November
Infographic: SAS season so far in numbers #lfc



2 November
Steven Gerrard stars in the new advert for #XboxOne



26 October
Tennis star Caroline Wozniacki at Anfield



26 October
Anfield #lfc



30 September
On this day in 1981 Ian Rush scored the first of 346 goals for #LFC against Oulu Palloseura



16 September
Mamadou Sakho's first ever #LFC jersey hangs in the away team dressing room at Swansea



13 September
Brendan Rodgers with his Barclays Manager of the Month award for August #lfc



3 September
#shankly100 #legend #lfc



1 September
Simon saves #lfc #liverpoolfc #mignolet

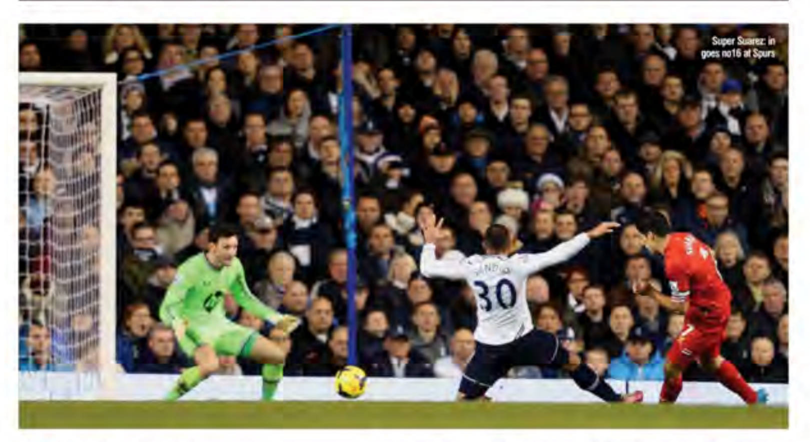


20 August
Greatest fans in the world #lfc #liverpool #liverpoolfc



David PRICE

Watching Luis Suarez at his scintillating best is a privilege



Super Suarez: in goes no16 at Spurs

From my own point of view I'll be glad to see the back of 2013. It's been a write-off. I've suffered a few defeats and recently had a virus for the best part of four weeks that meant I couldn't train properly. So getting a bout in before Christmas just wasn't a realistic prospect. Now I'm hoping to be back in the ring in either January or February.

The time off has given me a real hunger to fight again. Sometimes a break – even if you hadn't planned it – can be beneficial. You get a chance to refresh both body and mind. Luis Suarez is a perfect example of that. When he returned to the team, his desire to win, already high, reached new levels. Some non-Liverpoool fans might be surprised to hear this, but you have to admire his attitude too.

> "Luis is like a kid under ten who is playing in the U14 side"

After an unsettling summer of speculation he's come back and got on with playing and producing his best. Other players might have sulked. Instead Suarez has displayed his finest form since coming to this country.

The pleasure that his performances bring to the supporters is immense. It's a joy to watch him and we're privileged to be able to see him live. Luis reminds me of a kid who is under 10 but should be playing in an Under-14s side. He goes all over the pitch and is head and shoulders above everyone else most weeks.

Some of the form he showed before Christmas was frightening, up there with the very best. In fact I think he's played better than anyone else in the world this season. I know he hasn't been with us too long, but I believe Suarez is the most naturally talented player to ever wear the red shirt.

Refusing to sell him in the summer was one of the best decisions Brendan Rodgers has made since arriving here. It was right for the club not to let him go and, rather than any individual, that is the priority.

When he was appointed Brendan had a big job to do. He was always going to need time for his methods to take hold and to get in the players he wanted. At the back end of last season you could see that was starting to happen. The results were good. And it carried on this season. The players – including impressive signings such as Philippe Coutinho, Daniel Sturridge and Simon Mignolet – really believe in what he's trying to do and the football is good to watch.

Personally I think the team has the best attacking flow since the Roy Evans side of the mid-1990s. Just like them, whenever we go forward we look like a threat. That's what you want from your club. It's a really exciting time to be a Liverpool fan. The league is wide open with lots of teams beating each other. Someone has to win the title – why can't it be us?

Follow David on Twitter @DavidPrice_1

An Evening with

David Price

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Your favourite Liverpool goal of last year?

MILLEN
@Milen17LFC
Adam Phillips's free-kick for the U18s v Norwich

CHESAPEAKE RIPPER
@AhmedLFCmoH
Suarez goal v Norwich. Gerrard v City second

ROB HAYES
@Trickyladd
Gemma Bonner's strike for the ladies at Bristol

AMIR NMTLLH
@amimmtllh
Gerrard's stunner against Man City

NATE ELDRED
@nateeldred04LFC
Suarez v Norwich, the technique was insane!

MATTHEW BEARD
@mattbeard02
Probably @gembon23 goal away at Bristol

NEIL MELLOR
@NeilMellor33
Cameron Brannagan's U21 goal v Spurs

KYLE WEEKES
@kweekes1993
Luis Suarez's third against Norwich City

RONALD BOOGERS
@ronboogers
For sure the Gerrard thumping whack v Man City

JFT96
@Mr_ChrisL
Calendar year – Gerrard volley vs Man City

RYAN AYLIFFE
@ryanayliffe95
The best of 2013 has to be Suarez's 3rd against Norwich

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U21s = Adam Morgan 40 yard lob vs Man City

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